

Dear Senator Scullion,

October 29th 2008

We were not aware of the closing date for submissions to the Senate Enquiry, so ask of you to show your support for this area of Dundee Downs. The issues we have are the lack of basic infrastructure and will list the necessities below. Every-one knows that the grants commission allocates money on a yearly basis for the establishment of services and that anyone living out of the greater Darwin area does not receive their fare share.

Since the introduction of the GST, the Territory Government has received record funding, yet service delivery seems to have diminished, it is more than apparent that the funding made available is not getting to where it is supposed to.

Dundee Downs and the areas of Dundee Beach, Dundee Forest, Fog Bay, Bynoe Haven and Finnis River are subdivisions located centrally about 50kilometres south west of Darwin as the crow flies or 120kms by road. They support, as found in the last census, a permanent population of in excess of one thousand people with a tourist trade of many thousands every weekend and even greater at Easter and Christmas with the close proximity to Darwin .

We do not have the following basics:

- (1) An all weather access road, the Fog Bay Road has no bridging on the creek and river crossings and a great deal of the road is not bituminized.
- (2) Health clinic. People are unable to drive to Darwin in an emergency in the wet-season without an all weather access road.
- (3) Ambulance for transportation of sick and injured.
- (4) Electricity has not been delivered in all areas.
- (5) Unsafe local roads to boat ramps are not bituminized, even though \$6.4 million was allocated for Roads to Recovery for Unincorporated areas in 2008.
- (6) Water for the population is an inadequate amount and is not tested by health department.
- (7) Cyclone shelter for community, as there is not an all weather access road to be able to traverse when a Cyclone warning is issued. Dundee took the brunt of Cyclone Helen and received no assistance, mainly due to the fact there is no local government.
- (8) Public airstrip for evacuation in emergency and to support the tourist industry.
- (9) Local Government which we have been denied by the NT Government.
- (10) Police stationed in the Dundee Region.
- (11) A dedicated fire brigade as with any established area; needs more than just a volunteer group of fire fighters. We have been burnt out two years in a row as with others in the area.

Many of the community's problems could be remedied with the installation of a Local Government Establishment Package, which could incorporate the Cyclone shelter with a community hall, a health clinic, police station etc. Profitable viable societies are made by installing basic infrastructure in to the local environment early. This in turn funds the GST pool increasing the amount that can be spent.

It seems very sad that our community of Dundee is only required to pay GST and not receive any of the provisions of the tax. This area has only for years received a few road grades, with some electrical distribution. That is not much for all the tax that has been produced from this area, not just GST but stamp duty, vehicle registration, driver's licenses, fuel excise and the list goes on. Every time someone's car is destroyed by the poor road infrastructure on top of the repair is GST, every time we have to take someone to hospital we pay 38 cents per litre plus a Territory tax, plus GST.

Every community in the Northern Territory has these problems. It is not just Aboriginal Communities that are not funded appropriately. The Dundee Community has suffered greatly through the lack of funding allocated to the area by government. Barramundi Drive, Dundee Downs is less than six kilometers long and since we have lived here from 1994, there have been five roll over all less than two kilometres from our premises. This is because the roads are in such poor condition and because of the lack of police drink driving is a major community problem, with many people feeling as if they can do what they like and get away with it!

The government should be made accountable and made to distribute the funding directly into the areas which it has been meant to be provided for! Last year alone there was about \$9,350,000 allocated for the people found on the census in the Dundee Region; where has this money gone? Since the introduction of the GST there has only been less than \$5million in road upgrades and sealing of the Fog Bay Road and still it has no bridging of the creeks. Apart from that there have been a few maintenance grades and a bit of Electrical Distribution. It just does not add up.

At least Aboriginal communities have a permit system to stabilize their populations, many have police stationed and health clinics, with a far smaller population, they have Next G communications Dundee Downs doesn't, but we may have ten thousand visitors on a long weekend with no safe drinking water unsafe roads and we still have no electricity. There is though a concerted effort since this enquiry began to deliver power to Barramundi Drive, Dundee Downs and to do the allocated upgrade to the Fog Bay Road. Imagine how much more it's costing because this government has done nothing for so many years.

Dundee, as a community, needs services and to be recognized by government to become a prosperous viable community!

Thankyou.

Kind Regards,

Steve and Donna Mahony

Dundee Downs NT