

Central Ranges Natural Gas & Telecommunications Association Incorporated

PO Box 920
Mudgee 2850

ABN 85 702 882 351

Ph. (02) 6372 6088
Fax. (02) 6372 6070
Email: Margaret.mudgee@centralwest.biz

12/7/05

Alistair Sands
Secretary
Australian Senate
Finance and Public Administration
References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir,

Re: Enquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program and Sustainable Regions Program

I write in response to your request for a written submission addressing the inquiry's terms of reference.

As Chairman of the Central Ranges Natural Gas and Telecommunications Association Incorporated, I fully support the Government's initiatives in funding regional projects in Australia.

As a Board Member of the Orana Area Consultative Committee, I am also aware of how rigorous the decision making process is. The recommendations of our committee are carefully considered and follow a strict set of guidelines.

I do not consider I am in a position to make any valid comments about other projects.

In the interests of equality between the metropolitan and coastal regions of Australia and the remote and inland regional communities, I would like to see more funds made available and more projects approved in a shorter timeframe.

This Association has worked for ten years to bring an environmentally sound and competitive new energy source to what is probably the last major regional area in NSW without natural gas, which will enable value adding to local produce and bring new business and industry to the region.

We support and appreciate all endeavours to improve the viability and amenities of rural and regional communities.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thomas
CHAIRMAN

Representatives

Coolah Shire Council; Coonabarabran Shire Council; Gilgandra Shire Council; Gunnedah Shire Council;
Mudgee Shire Council; Peel Valley Shire Council; Tamworth Regional Council;
Mudgee Region Business Enterprise Centre. Tamworth Development Corporation;