



Australian Government
Department of Transport and Regional Services



Senator Michael Forshaw
Chair
Finance and Public Administration References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Forshaw

At the hearings of the Finance and Public Administration References Committee on 2 and 10 February 2005, Departmental witnesses took a number of matters on notice and undertook to get back to the Committee.

These matters have been followed up and I am able to provide the Committee with the following information:

SONA Procedures

- Mrs Kelly and Mr Lloyd were provided with SONA guidelines at the time they were required to make a decision on a SONA project.
- SONA procedures have been included in the Regional Partnerships' Internal Manual which is sent to Chairs of Area Consultative Committees. The procedures have also been discussed in training sessions attended by Executive Officers of ACCs.
- I can confirm that the amount committed on SONA projects in 2003-04 is \$20.872 million. Major components of this commitment are \$12.734m for the Sugar Industry Reform Programme; \$4.5m for the University of New England Science, Communication Technology and Maths Centre; and \$2.5m for upgrade of Christmas Island Mobile Telephone system.
- Carriage of SONA assessments has mainly been undertaken in national office with input from regional offices. There have been two projects assessed in the Newcastle regional office, those being the two Slim Dusty projects.
- The Department has no record of announcements made for any of the SONA projects prior to completion of their assessment. However, the Crocfest project was running for several years prior to a decision that RP would contribute to its funding.
- In relation to the Slim Dusty project, the Government agreed that funding should be sourced from relevant Government programmes, subject to the normal requirements of those programmes.
- A publication entitled *Regional Assistance Programme – A Guide for Area Consultative Committees and Project Proponents* contained a passing reference to "nationally significant projects". This booklet was published when that Programme was administered by the former Department of Workplace Relations and Small Business. To the best of my knowledge, no other reference to Projects

of National Significance appears in any of the printed public material for the Regional Assistance Programme.

Potential Sustainable Regions

- An assessment, using an array of indicators, was undertaken by the Department of regions which could be candidates for extension of the Sustainable Regions Programme in June 2004.
- In providing this advice, DOTARS assessed a number of potential regions against the following indicators as a possible measure of disadvantage:
 - annual population change, 1996-2001
 - mean annual taxable income, 1999-2000
 - unemployment rate, 2001
 - regions that are 5-20% or more below the non-metropolitan average for the index of socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA), 2001.

Tabling of Applications

- The Senate Table Office has advised that their records show that no applications for funding under Regional Partnerships have been tabled in the Senate. However, I note that DOTARS did provide copies of a range of documents to your Committee in May 2003 during the course of the Inquiry into a funding matter under the Dairy Regional Assistance Programme. These documents included copies of relevant versions of the application from Moruya Decking and Cladding Pty Ltd, trading as Mordek.

Definition of Location Classification

- The location classification in the data tables previously provided to the Committee was based on the assignment of the classification of the Area Consultative Committee to electorates within that region.
- The Department has standardised across the two programmes the regional classifications of each project. Projects for both programmes are now classified using the Australian Electoral Commission's electorate demographic rating system.

Metropolitan

- Inner Metropolitan – comprised of well established built-up suburbs of capital cities.
- Outer Metropolitan – containing areas of more recent suburban expansion in capital cities.

Non-Metropolitan

- Provincial - a majority of enrolment in major provincial cities or in non-metropolitan urban conglomerates.
- Rural – without a majority of enrolment in major provincial cities.
- The electorate is based on the location of the proposed project at the time of lodgement of the application.
- A list of electorates and their demographic classification based on information provided by the Australian Electoral Commission is at **Attachment A**.

Process for Advising Members of Parliament and Senators

- We are aware of other programmes that follow the practice of advising 'patron' senators of approved projects and that this practice is not unique to Regional Partnerships and the Sustainable Regions Programme.
- The Minister's Office has declined the Committee's request for a copy of the Patron Senator list.

Murray Order

- The Department complies with the Murray Order to list all contracts, over \$100,000 in value, on the Departmental web site. In accordance with the Order a six monthly review of the listing is being conducted.
- Included on the list are relevant funding agreements for projects funded under Regional Partnerships and the Sustainable Regions Programmes. In accordance with the permission of the Senate, a generic entry has been included for Operational Funding Contracts with the 56 Area Consultative Committees.
- Programme guidelines alert prospective applicants that if they are successful they will be required to enter into a standard Funding Agreement with the Government prior to receiving funding. By signing the agreement recipients are required to acknowledge that the Government may be required to provide information contained in the agreement.
- Accordingly, the Department is able to provide details of any funding agreement entered into with recipients of Regional Partnerships or Sustainable Regions funding.
- All decisions on projects and funding agreements/contracts are auditable by the ANAO.

ACC Recommendations

- ACCs have given a low priority rating to under 4% of projects that have been decided on since the commencement of Regional Partnerships in July 2003. Over two thirds of projects are accorded a high priority rating.

University of New England Maths Centre

- I can confirm that the funding agreement between the recipient and the Government for this proposal was signed on 29 June 2004.

Indigenous Projects

- In August 2004, the Department of Transport and Regional Services provided data to the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination on its indigenous expenditure for 2003-04. The attached tables (**Attachment B**) show some \$2.7m was spent on 11 projects under Regional Partnerships and \$2.6m on 7 projects under Sustainable Regions for this period.
- Subsequently, 10 further indigenous projects have been approved for funding under Regional Partnerships with a value in excess of \$4.1m. These are listed at Attachment C.

Tumbi Creek Application

- Permission has been received from the Wyong Shire Council to table its letters dated 25 June and 1 July 2004 which relate to the Council's second application for additional funding under Regional Partnerships for the Tumbi Creek project. Copies of these letters are also attached.

Other matters were raised which the Department is currently considering. It was suggested that the Department undertake a survey of ACCs to establish the reasons why there are few applications from organisations in the electorates held by the non-Government parties. The Department is currently looking at options for including this issue in future evaluation activities for the programmes.

It was also asked whether the Department could provide details of State Government funding for projects funded under Regional Partnerships and the Sustainable Regions Programmes. As you would be aware from our Departmental submission, the Department's preliminary internal evaluation of Regional Partnerships up to 30 June 2004 found that for every \$1 committed to projects by the Australian Government, state governments have provided around \$0.93. An extensive manual search of files would be required to extract the more detailed information you seek.

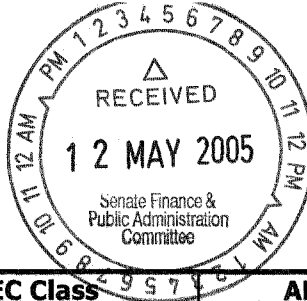
I am aware that the Department also committed to seeking the Minister's approval to the release of other information sought by the Committee during hearings. I will advise the Committee of the outcome of those requests as soon as a decision is taken.

Yours sincerely



Peter Yuile
Deputy Secretary

2 May 2005



ATTACHMENT A

ELECTORATE CLASSIFICATIONS

Electorate	Old Classification	AEC Class		State
		Pre 2004 Election	Post 2004 Election	
Adelaide	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	SA
Aston	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Ballarat	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	Vic
Banks	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Barker	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	SA
Barton	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Bass	Remote	Provincial	Provincial	Tas
Batman	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
Bendigo	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	Vic
Bennelong	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Berowra	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Blair	Metro	Rural	Rural	Qld
Blaxland	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Bonython	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	N/A (Ceased to exist)	SA
Bonner	Metro	N/A (Not yet established)	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Boothby	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	SA
Bowman	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Braddon	Remote	Rural	Rural	Tas
Bradfield	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Brand	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Provincial	WA
Brisbane	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Qld
Bruce	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Burke	Regional/Rural	Rural	N/A (Ceased to exist)	Vic
Calare	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Calwell	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Canberra	Regional/Rural	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	ACT
Canning	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	WA
Capricornia	Remote	Provincial	Provincial	Qld
Casey	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Charlton	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	NSW
Chifley	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Chisholm	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
Cook	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Corangamite	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	Vic
Corio	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	Vic
Cowan	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	WA
Cowper	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Cunningham	Regional/Rural	Outer Metropolitan	Provincial	NSW
Curtin	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	WA
Dawson	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Qld
Deakin	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Denison	Remote	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Tas
Dickson	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Dobell	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	NSW
Dunkley	Regional/Rural	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Eden-Monaro	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Fadden	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Fairfax	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Qld
Farrer	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Fisher	Metro	Provincial	Rural	Qld

Electorate	Old Classification	AEC Class		State
		Pre 2004 Election	Post 2004 Election	
Flinders	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
Forde	Metro	Rural	Rural	Qld
Forrest	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	WA
Fowler	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Franklin	Remote	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Tas
Fraser	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	ACT
Fremantle	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	WA
Gellibrand	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
Gilmore	Metro	Rural	Rural	NSW
Gippsland	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
Goldstein	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
Gorton	Metro	N/A (Not yet established)	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Grayndler	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Greenway	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Grey	Remote	Rural	Rural	SA
Griffith	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Groom	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	Qld
Gwydir	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Hasluck	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	WA
Herbert	Remote	Provincial	Provincial	Qld
Higgins	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
Hindmarsh	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	SA
Hinkler	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Qld
Holt	Regional/Rural	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Hotham	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Hughes	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Hume	Metro	Rural	Rural	NSW
Hunter	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Indi	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
Isaacs	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Jagajaga	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Kalgoorlie	Remote	Rural	Rural	WA
Kennedy	Remote	Rural	Rural	Qld
Kingsford Smith	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Kingston	Regional/Rural	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	SA
Kooyong	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
La Trobe	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Lalor	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Leichhardt	Remote	Rural	Rural	Qld
Lilley	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Qld
Lindsay	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Lingiari	Remote	Rural	Rural	NT
Longman	Metro	Rural	Rural	Qld
Lowe	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Lyne	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Lyons	Remote	Rural	Rural	Tas
Macarthur	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Rural	NSW
Mackellar	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Macquarie	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Makin	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	SA
Mallee	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
Maranoa	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Qld

Electorate	Old Classification	AEC Class		State
		Pre 2004 Election	Post 2004 Election	
Maribyrnong	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Mayo	Metro	Rural	Rural	SA
McEwen	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
McMillan	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
McPherson	Metro	Provincial	Provincial	Qld
Melbourne	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
Melbourne Ports	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic
Menzies	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Mitchell	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Moncrieff	Metro	Provincial	Provincial	Qld
Moore	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	WA
Moreton	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Qld
Murray	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
New England	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Newcastle	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	NSW
North Sydney	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
O'Connor	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	WA
Oxley	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Page	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Parkes	Remote	Rural	Rural	NSW
Parramatta	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Paterson	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Pearce	Remote	Rural	Outer Metropolitan	WA
Perth	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	WA
Petrie	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Port Adelaide	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	SA
Prospect	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Rankin	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Reid	Regional/Rural	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Richmond	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Riverina	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	NSW
Robertson	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	NSW
Ryan	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Qld
Scullin	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	Vic
Shortland	Regional/Rural	Provincial	Provincial	NSW
Solomon	Remote	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NT
Stirling	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	WA
Sturt	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	SA
Swan	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	WA
Sydney	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Tangney	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	WA
Throsby	Regional/Rural	Inner Metropolitan	Provincial	NSW
Wakefield	Remote	Rural	Rural	SA
Wannon	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Vic
Warringah	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Watson	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Wentworth	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	NSW
Werriwa	Metro	Outer Metropolitan	Outer Metropolitan	NSW
Wide Bay	Regional/Rural	Rural	Rural	Qld
Wills	Metro	Inner Metropolitan	Inner Metropolitan	Vic

Sustainable Regions Programme -Indigenous Project Expenditure: 2003-04

Project No.	Postcode	Project Title	Indigenous Beneficiary	Amount GST Exclusive	Amount GST Inclusive
		Wide Bay Burnett Sustainable Region			
1	4605	Cherbourg Food Processing Company	The company is positioned within an Aboriginal community with about 20 of its workforce being indigenous	454,545.45	500,000.00
		Kimberley Sustainable Region			
2	6725	Kimberley Aboriginal Pastoralists Project (KAPA)	primarily for a part time Executive Officer to coordinate the implementation of KAPA's strategic plan and for the day to day operations of the KAPA office	288,300.00	317,130.00
3	6725	Kimberley Aboriginal Aquaculture Corporation -Kimberley Black Tiger Prawn	To further investigate issues arising from the Kimberley Aquaculture Research project, enhance capacity in the region to take up prawn farming and establish a new primary industry in the Kimberley	659,927.27	725,920.00
4	6743	Wunan Foundation, Kimberly Aboriginal Tourism Project	Wunan Foundation - The project aims to maximise the potential of existing relationships and involvements between 'host' aboriginal communities and the Wunan Foundation's tourism activities	85,000.00	93,500.00
5	6725	Miriam Council Aboriginal Corporation -Kimberley Interpreting Service (KIS)	Assist KIS to increase the use of interpreters within its existing client base as well as develop an expanded market with the private sector	115,454.55	127,000.00
6	6770	Warlayirti Arts Centre - The project will be based at Warlayirti Arts and Cultural Centre and will include the employment and support for a Business Development Manager and a Community Development Worker, to manage the commercial and non commercial development	Warlayirti Artists Aboriginal Corporation - Teaching Kids, Teaching Tourists, Sharing Culture	609,500.00	670,450.00
		Atherton Tablelands Sustainable Region			
7	4871	The Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, the traditional owners of the Bare Hill Rock Art site, will develop several guided tours of the site and other culturally significant locations nearby.	Djabugay Tribal Aboriginal Corporation	142,090.91	156,300.00
		Total		2,354,818.18	2,590,300.00

Regional Partnerships Programme - General Indigenous Expenditure 2003-04 (Actual)

RP no	Organisation Name		Project	Location	pcode	State	Total Funding (GST excl)	Total Funding (GST inc)
90	Tiwi Training and Employment Board Pty Ltd (RSP/1957)	company	Tiwi Islands Training Centre - Stage 2	NGUIU	822	NT	\$91,163	\$100,279
169	Watarru Community Inc	corp	Watarru Community Store Managers House	WATARRU COMMUNITY	872	SA	\$275,000	\$302,500
198	Oodnadatta Progress Assoc	assoc	Oodnadatta Tourism & Community Infrastructure project	OODNADATT A	5734	SA	\$72,500	\$79,750
336	Taribelang Bunda Aboriginal Corporation for land	corp	Pottery Workshop Activity Centre	BUNDABERG	4670	QLD	\$30,000	\$33,000
610	Kempsey Shire Council	council	Wigay Aboriginal Cultural Park	WEST KEMPSEY	2440	NSW	\$8,000	\$8,800
615	Gumala Aboriginal Corporation	corp	Aboriginal Lore Grounds Infrastructure Project	TOM PRICE	6751	WA	\$96,100	\$105,710
643	Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association	assoc	Regional Indigenous Music Community Partnership	ALICE SPRINGS	870	NT	\$246,850	\$271,535
663	Ningy Ningy Cultural Heritage	assoc	Kurbingaibah infrastructure development	KIPPA-RING	4021	QLD	\$250,000	\$275,000
819	Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation	corp	Palm Island Sponges Aquaculture Project - Technical Development	PALM ISLAND	4816	QLD	\$129,000	\$141,900
899	Balkanu Cane York Development Corp.	corp	Indigenous Stock Exchange	CAPE YORK	4870	QLD	\$45,000	\$49,500
958	Central Australian Regional Development Committee	committee	Desert Knowledge Business Centre (DKBC)	ALICE SPRINGS	870	NT	\$1,250,000	\$1,375,000
	Total						\$2,493,613	\$2,742,974



WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL

building a better tomorrow!



FAXED
25.6.04

MDL:AR/M Long
F2004/06943

June 25 2004

Mr Ian Geary
Department of Transport & Regional
Services
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Fax: (02) 6274 8100

Dear Mr Geary

Regional Partnerships – Tumby Creek Dredging

Please find attached Council's revised application for Regional Partnerships regarding the Tumby Creek Dredging proposal. Council is now seeking financial support from the Federal Government for two-thirds of the estimated cost of the project (\$1.36M), with Council contributing the remaining one-third of the cost (\$0.66M), on the basis that the NSW Government has made no provision for funding of this work.

Should you require any further information or clarification please contact the undersigned on telephone 43 505 418.

Yours faithfully

Mike Long
Manager
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Attch.

