



2nd March 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Alistair

Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program

The Gold Coast & Region Area Consultative Committee Inc. appeared before the Senate Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program last Friday, 25th February 2005.

During the hearing the ACC was requested to provide additional information to clarify a number of points. The following information is attached in response to these requests.

1. **Letter from Jim Daynes** (Beaudesert Shire Railway Support Group inc. trading as Beaudesert Rail) dated 13th February 2003 requesting assistance from the ACC. The letter is attached.
2. **The Committee's request to provide evidence of the date the ACC became aware of the Significant Opportunities Notional Allocation funding.** As indicated during the hearing the ACC was aware of funding under for nationally significant projects which was a component of the Regional Assistance Program, the precursor of Regional Partnerships. This program was drawn to the ACC's attention at the first Executive Officers Conference attended in Canberra in December 1999. When the Regional Partnerships Program was introduced Executive Officers attended a Conference in Canberra from 22nd to 23rd May 2003. During this conference a session was conducted by Kelly Pearce on Regional Partnerships- ACC Role. One overhead reads and is included for reference "ACCs will continue to receive a notional allocation:....."
 - A small proportion of funds will be retained at National level for Strategic Opportunities and large scale projects (approx. \$3-4 million)..."

The Gold Coast & Region Area Consultative Committee Inc. ABN 23 726 915 679

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In addition, South East Queensland Executive Officers attended a national training for the TRAX system on 3rd July 2003. TRAX is the IT program management system supporting the application, assessment and monitoring of projects submitted to the Regional Partnerships Program. The training included an overview of Regional Partnerships. An overhead is included for reference and reads:

" How will the money be managed.....

- A small proportion of funds will be retained at National level for Strategic Opportunities and large scale projects (approx. \$3-4 million)..."

Should you require clarification on these matters please contact the ACC office.

Yours sincerely



Anne Norton-Knight
Executive Officer

13 FEB 2003 3:58PM

BEAUDESERT RAIL

61755410259

P. 1



Beaudesert Shire Railway Support Group Inc trading as

BEAUDESERT RAIL

ABN 30 882 471 283

Administration and Project Office: 100 Brisbane Street, Beaudesert Qld 4285

Postal Address: P O Box 255 Beaudesert Qld 4285

Phone 07 5541 0000 facsimile 07 5541 0200 email: beaudesert_rail@bigpond.com

13th February 2003

Mr Brian Gassman
Chairman
Gold Coast & Region Area Consultative Committee
P O Box 3089
Nerang Q 4211

Dear Brian

With regard to my conversation today and on behalf of the Management Committee of Beaudesert Rail I make the following request.

Beaudesert Rail seeks the ACC's assistance as facilitators to assess the current financial status of this organization.

The purpose is to show that Beaudesert Rail has a very viable and sound commercial future and that options to solve the current funding situation may be explored.

I thank you for any assistance you are able to provide.

Yours sincerely



Jim Daynes
Acting General Manager



Area Consultative Committees

Area Consultative Committees - Executive Officers Conference
Thursday 22 May and Friday 23 May 2003
Canberra

Venue: Rydges Eagle Hawk Resort, Phone: (02) 6241 6033
Federal Highway, North Canberra/NSW Border

Agenda

Day One - Thursday

- 8.45 am Welcome by local ACC Chair Mr Ross McDiarmid
- 9.00am Keynote address by Leslie Riggs, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Programmes Division
- 9.15am Overview of Regional Partnerships package and the role of Area Consultative Committees
- 9.45am Open Forum – ACCs identify key priorities for their organisations/issues
 Len Van der Waag to lead a panel from WA on issues of importance for ACCs
 Lisa Shreeve – National Marketing Strategy.

10.15 –10.30am Morning Tea

Break into Groups and attend either workshop 1 or 2 followed by other workshops outlined below:

Workshop 1	Workshop 2
<p>Compulsory</p> <p>Corporate Governance workshop (4 hour session)</p> <p>Presenter Ms Sue Tongue</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to corporate governance The public sector and difference between the public and private sectors 	<p>Compulsory</p> <p><i>Delivering Regional Partnerships</i></p> <p>Workshopping Regional Partnerships (covering commercial projects) (2 hour session)</p> <p>Presenters Kelly Pearce and Stacey Peel</p> <p>This session will include a series of workshops to develop agreed approaches to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interpreting the guidelines for applicants - working with the private sector - New Grants Management System "TRAX" - making effective recommendations on projects - issues for further development / training
12.30pm –13.15pm	Lunch
<p>Governance continued.....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How to achieve good corporate governance <p>Hand Out Media Protocol</p>	<p><i>Delivering Regional Partnerships continued.....</i></p> <p>13.15-14.00 Evaluation and Reporting Mark Cloney/Grant Jay (45 mins)</p> <p>14.00–15.30 Writing Applications for funding – building community capacity – Vicki Dickman.</p> <p>Circulate Grantslink (information kit)</p>
3.30 pm	Afternoon Tea
<p>Machinery of Government tour parliament house – with a walk through the corridors of power.</p> <p>Depart at 3.30pm for 1 hour tour at 4pm returning to Eagle Hawk by bus at 6.00pm</p>	<p>Business Planning Cycle using the Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>Summary session to review progress against issues raised during the day.</p>
6.45pm	Networking Dinner at Eagle Hawk – speaker Mr Peter Yuile



Day Two - Friday

- 9.00am Overview of: (Vicki Dickman)
- progress on issues from day one.
 - DOTARS including objectives/priorities and other programmes within the Department.
 - Whole of Government focus – what does this practically mean for ACCs? - section 6.

9.45am **Sharing Information session:**


Best Practice presentations by ACCs

1. Torres Strait ACC – Darlene Fell has identified Best Practice Project models for working with indigenous people and communities
2. Melbourne Development Board - John Macdonald – Using socio economic data to win friends and influence people
3. Pilbara ACC – on Port Hedland Courthouse Arts development.

10.15 – 10.30am	Morning Tea
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<p>Workshop 1 - repeat</p> <p>Compulsory (for those who did not attend on day one)</p> <p>Corporate Governance workshop (4 hour session)</p> <p>Presenter Ms Sue Tongue</p> <p>1. Introduction to corporate governance 2. The public sector and difference between the public and private sectors</p>	<p>Workshop 2 - repeat</p> <p><i>Delivering Regional Partnerships</i></p> <p>Compulsory (for those who did not attend on day one)</p> <p>Workshoring Regional Partnerships (covering commercial projects)</p> <p>(2 hour session)</p> <p>Presenters Kelly Pearce and Stacey Peel</p>
12.30pm – 13.15pm	Lunch
<p>Governance continued</p> <p>3. How to achieve good corporate governance</p> <p>Hand out Media protocol</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Delivering Regional Partnerships continued</p> <p>13.15-14.00pm Evaluation and Reporting (Mark Cloney/ Grant Jay)</p> <p>14.00-15.30pm Writing Applications for funding – building community capacity (Vicki Dickman).</p> <p>Grantslink (information kit)</p>
3.30pm Afternoon Tea	
<p>Machinery of Government tour parliament house</p> <p>Depart 3.30pm for 1 hour tour commencing at 4pm. Return to Eagle Hawk by bus at 6.00pm</p>	<p>Business Planning Cycle using the Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>Russell Trebilcock / Vicki Dickman</p>
Wrap Up Session	






**Area Consultative Committee National Executive Officers
Conference**

Regional Partnerships - ACC Role


Kelly Pearce
Director, ACC & Regional Package Team
Regional Programmes Division



Regional Partnerships has been designed to take advantage of ACC strengths in:

- regional development opportunities and
- linking the Commonwealth Government with rural and metropolitan communities Australia

brought together 10 programmes



ACC Role in Regional Partnerships

In his letter to ACC Chairs the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon John Anderson MP, said:

... In future, your role will be strengthened and extended to cover all elements of the new package. You will be the primary point of promotion, project and application development and our key provider of independent advice to the Department on all applications from your region.....

After the Chairs conference, Minister Anderson asked CRG to produce a process flow showing the ACC role in the programme.



ACCs will continue to receive a notional allocation:

- Until we finish current rounds for RAP & RSP we won't be 100% certain of the amount available for allocation

- A small proportion of funds will be retained at National level for Strategic Opportunities and large scale projects (approx \$3-4 million)

- ACC allocation will be based on the metropolitan, rural/regional and remote split that ACCs are familiar with.

old nationally significant projects

Regional Partnerships Training

July 2003

Agenda (see handout)

- Overview of Regional Partnerships
- ACC role in pre-Application
- Overview of TRAX
- ACC Comments and Recommendations
- What happens next
- General discussion/TRAX practice

Expectations

What do you expect from this training?

How will the money be managed

- > Subject to Ministers' agreement there will be Notional Allocations;
- > Not expected to be less than current allocation and may be more depending on whether rural or remote;
- > A small proportion of funds will be retained at National level for Strategic Opportunities and large scale projects (approx \$3-4 million)
- > ACC allocation will be based on the metropolitan, rural/regional and remote split that ACCs are familiar with.

Who is not eligible to apply?

- Area Consultative Committees;
- commonwealth and state government departments;
- individuals;
- private enterprise and co-operatives, that are considered commercial enterprises, requesting funding for planning, studies or research; or
- third parties seeking funds on behalf of others.

The Commonwealth cannot enter into a Funding Agreement with entities that do not comply with state or federal law, such as *Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999*, regardless of the relevance of the non-compliance to the project.

Who is eligible to apply?

Entities registered under State or Commonwealth legislation eg *Corporations Act 2001* (with some exceptions), can apply. This includes:

- Non-profit organisations
- Local Government
- Community Councils (Indigenous Councils)
- Co-operatives
- Associations
- Registered Charities
- Private sector (except for planning)
