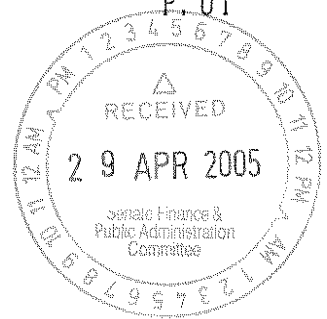


ATTENTION: TERRY BROWN,
GENERAL SECRETARY,
FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFERENCE COMMITTEE,
AUSTRALIAN SENATE,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
CANBERRA...A.C.T...2600.
Fax +61 2 6277 5809



Dear Secretary,

Friday 29th April, 2005.

Thankyou for sending me the Proof transcript of evidence dated 19th April, 2005 relating to the Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program in Cairns on the 14th April, 2005, which I attended along with 4 other members of the Dimbulah Reticulated Water Supply Action Group.

I have read the transcript of our group's evidence and can note only one error which was the word **MUTCHILBA** recorded as MATILDA. **MUTCHILBA** is a small town near Dimbulah. I will fax through page 63 with this letter so this error can be corrected.

Could I please request a hard copy of the official transcript when it becomes available.

Thankyou also for returning copies of the documents which I supplied to the secretariat after our appearance at the hearing.

I would also like to thank the Reference Committee for the opportunity for our group to be able to put our issues forward regarding the fact that the town of Dimbulah, which lost it's Tobacco Industry through no fault of it's own, did not receive 1 cent of the federal government's Regional Partnerships Program funding, due to the poor performance of the ATSRAC committee.

Michael Lawrence, the CO of ATSRAC rang me yesterday to inform our group that our EOI which had very recently been sent in by the Mareeba Shire Council, was not successful. Submissions closed in January this year and all funds from ATSRAC have been allocated.

Our Dimbulah Township is still left with an outdated, inefficient town water supply, which cannot deliver adequate water pressure nor water quality to Dimbulah residents. However, our group will not give up hope, and we will continue to seek government funding. We ask that your reference committee notes our plight. We will be grateful for any further assistance that your committee can offer us.

Your faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gaye Taylor".

Gaye Taylor,

*DIMBULAH RETICULATED WATER SUPPLY ACTION GROUP,
37 Leedingham Creek Road,
Dimbulah..N.Q..4872.
ph/fax 07 40 935357*

Thursday, 14 April 2005

Senate—References

F&PA 63

Senator CARR—Some emphasis has been placed on the fact that you have not formally submitted an application for money, so I want to be clear in my mind on this. The evidence that you are putting to this committee, Mr McKinley, is that you approached the task force through the workshops of the sustainable regions committee some years ago?

Mr McKinley—Yes, it was at a workshop.

Senator CARR—You did a workshop and you explained the need for the water supply?

Mr McKinley—Yes.

Senator CARR—Ms Taylor, you are saying that you approached your council and you were advised that you did not fit the guidelines. It is quite clear that was not accurate.

Ms Taylor—That is correct.

Senator CARR—You are saying as well that many other bodgie projects have got up. I will go through them. You have got a milk project that went into receivership, nearly \$1.3 million worth; you have got a wildlife park in receivership, \$500,000; you have got a caravan park, \$200,000; and Eden House—nearly \$200,000 returned because the place was sold.

Senator McLUCAS—It is on the market.

Senator CARR—So it is on the market and has not been sold yet. You have those one after another and now you have the Black Stump Hotel, which seems to be famous in the region for its strip shows, its topless barmaids and its poker machines. Are you saying that the committee did not discuss any of these matters with you and that the executive officers of the committee did not discuss any priorities with you?

* MUTCHILUBA

Mr McKinley—I am concerned about that now. I am really concerned from the point of view of emergency services and as a concerned citizen of the ~~Matilda~~-Dimbulah area. If I had known that it was not going to be taken any further through the local government and our local mayors, who are the heads of ATSRAC, I would have made further noises in trying to get a submission put forward. I was never aware of that, because it is like I said: the only time you saw it was when there was some notice in the paper that another \$5 million had been given out.

Senator CARR—I find it incredible that a basic infrastructure service like water supply is being ignored when these other projects are clearly getting money. I understand that ATSRAC is known locally as RATAK. Is that correct?

Ms Taylor—Yes.

Mr McKinley—That would be right.

Senator CARR—Why is it called RATAK?

Ms Taylor—I think that for some people it does not have credibility.