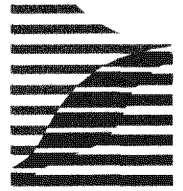
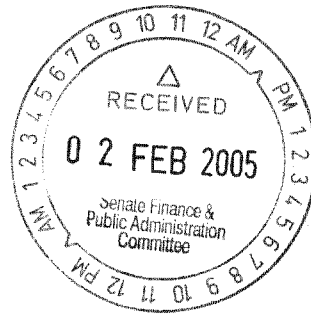


31 January 2005

Refer Enquiries: G3/1



CITY OF
TEA TREE GULLY
Naturally Better

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

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The City of Tea Tree Gully wishes to bring to the attention of the above Inquiry its concerns in regard to the allocation of public funds without knowledge or reference to other public funds that may have also been allocated to address the same or similar issues or impact the same geographic area.

As an example only of our concerns, the adjoining City of Salisbury receives \$6+ million more than our City in Federal Assistance Grants. This differential is intended to address socio-economic disadvantage which is supposedly quantified by formula. A state agency of Office of the North also directs state resources into the region within which the City of Salisbury is located. There is no similar state agency or funding source for the region in which the City of Tea Tree Gully is situated. In addition to this special treatment by the State Government the Federal Government is providing up to \$12 million until June 2006 into the Cities of Salisbury and Playford through the Regional Partnership Program.

A recent submission to the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission by this Council raised these concerns about different public funding agencies not having regard to other public funding activities. The response from the Commission was that it is constrained in what it

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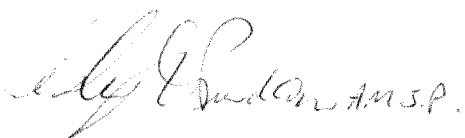


can consider in its funding allocation by the National Principles contained within the Commonwealth Local Government Financial Assistance Grants Act 1995. It would appear from this response that there is no overarching view on the distribution of public funds and accordingly a lack of transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

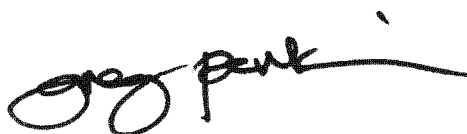
The examples provided in this submission are not to say that the communities in Salisbury and Playford do not justify greater public funding support than the City of Tea Tree Gully but that there is lack of justification and transparency in the allocation of the substantial public funds provided by disparate public agencies.

The City of Tea Tree Gully therefore requests the Inquiry to ensure that a more accountable system of public funding is developed.

Yours faithfully



Lesley D Purdom AM JP
MAYOR



Greg Perkin
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER