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In reply please quote ref:

Our Ref

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Your Ref

10 July 2008

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development and Local Government
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM

In relation to the Media Release issued on the 15th May 2008 regarding the above, Council hereby submits its submission.

Council vigorously supports the continuation of funding regional programs albeit under a different name. This action is most important to allow communities to develop infrastructure projects for the sustainability and viability of local and regional communities.

In this Council's case, it took Council three (3) submissions over three (3) years to be granted final approval from DOTARS for the proposed construction of our new Goomalling Community Centre which will house the following:

- New Doctor's Surgery with 2 consulting rooms;
- New Dental Surgery;
- New Telecentre/Library;
- New local newspaper facility;
- New Toy Library facility;
- Video/conferencing/board room with kitchen facilities;
- Professional office room to hire out to visiting professionals, trades and Parliamentarians etc.

This project is expected to be opened in mid October 2008.

To complete and finalise this project it has been calculated to cost \$2.23 million. Council's contribution in cash will be costed at exactly \$1 million. Without the support of DOTARS current contribution of \$400,000 there is no doubt the project would not have been proceeded with. This Council had to "fight tooth and nail" to finally receive funding approval and it can be stated without fear or favour this Council had to "fight every inch of the way" to receive final approval. Council's Business Plan which was finally accepted, has been regularly used as a Model for other community projects.

Our Council can honestly state that this Council did not receive any favouritism whatsoever, actually it could be viewed as to the contrary, whatever the case, Council viewed the approval based on its hard work to achieve the final and ecstatic result.

It is this Council's opinion that if the new program is carried out under similar arrangements of the old program, then the new practices and procedures would be difficult to improve.

On behalf of Council, I will be attending the Consultation Brief in Wyalkatchem on Friday 8th August 2008 and will be most happy to further expand the tremendous benefits of the old program and hope that it will continue into the proposed new one.

Yours faithfully



Clem Kerp
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER