



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development & Local Government Committee**

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 15 May 2008

Chair: Catherine King MP

INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government is to conduct an inquiry into a new regional development funding program.

The inquiry, requested by the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, is to report on the Australian National Audit Office's Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships Program and make recommendations on ways to invest funding in genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure with the aim of enhancing the sustainability and livability of Australia's regions.

The Committee's report is to:

- Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;
- Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;
- Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and
- Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Closing date for submissions: 30 June 2008

Further information and advice on making submissions, can be found at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/itrdlg>

For media comment:

Please contact the Committee Chair, Catherine King, on 0409 855 946.

For background information:

Please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or by email at

itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au