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Glenelg Hopkins



C M A

Protecting our future ~ Naturally

August 19 2010

Our Ref: CA-12-0046

Committee Secretary
Select Committee on the Reform of the Australian Federation
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Subject: Select Committee on the Reform of the Australian Federation

The Select Committee has been asked to consider reform of the relations between the three levels of government including:

(v) strategies for strengthening Australia's regions and the delivery of services through regional development committees and regional grant programs.

As a regional Natural Resource Management body, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has identified that there has been a perceived lack of support for the regional model of service delivery by a number of levels of government. Hence there is a high risk of regional communities being unable to deal with changing government priorities and directions.

A strong model for regional delivery provides for effective service delivery **with** the regional community and **within** the regional community. This ensures that capacity in the regions is maintained and enhanced through ongoing professional and technological capability based in the regions. The regional model also contributes to the adaptability and resilience of the regional communities enabling them to deal with changing priorities and direction of governments.

Regional development committees and regional grant programs need to be maintained for maintaining the regional capacity building. They should however be enhanced by aligning them with a much more sustainable development approach that recognizes natural resource capital as the basis for the development and enhancement of human and social capital in the region.

Yours sincerely

**Lilian Parker
Acting CEO**