

House of Representatives Inquiry Submission Wheatbelt Region

Closing Date for Submission - Monday 14th July 2008
Please complete as many pages as required

Name: Henry Van Der Ende
Position Role (if applicable): Chief Executive Officer
Organisation (if applicable): Shire of Dumbleyung
Region: Wheatbelt Region

1. Please provide your thoughts on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.

I believe that any scheme from the Federal Government to assist regional Australia should concentrate on three areas:

1. Senior Citizens Accommodation;
2. Housing for the middle income Australians to offset the lack of capital growth in non coastal communities;
3. Infrastructure assistance for commerce/industry. State government funding is inadequate and we need assistance to service remote areas.

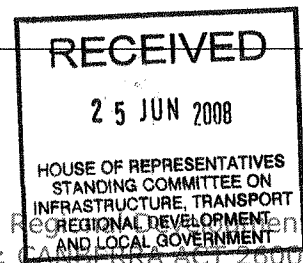
2. How should the Federal Government design regional programs in a way to minimise administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.

Use Local Government to administrate any grant funding. Local Government is that sphere of government closest to the people and has a good history of efficiency and compliance.

3. Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/auditreports/2007-2008.cfm?item_id=40BC1C6C1560A6E8AAA43AAB96708E61 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

4. 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.

Funding of regional programs should be directed to encourage communities away from the coast and major regional centres. It is extremely difficult to attract population to the remote and rural areas of our nation.



Forward Submission to -

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Post: Committee Secretary; Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; PO Box 6021; House of Representatives; Parliament House; Canberra ACT 2600
(Note- In order to facilitate electronic publishing of submissions, the Committee would prefer posted submissions to be sent on disk or CD-ROM in Microsoft Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF).