

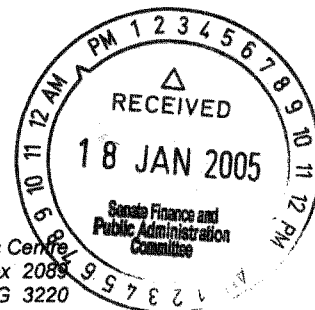


ABN: 37 232 902 709

17th January 2005.

The Secretary
The Australian Senate
Finance & Public Administration
Reference Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

fpa.sen@aph.gov.au



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Re: Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program and Sustainable Regions Program

Dear Sirs,

The Board of the Geelong Area Consultative Committee decided that this ACC should comment on "the recommendations of Area Consultative Committees" as detailed in the terms of reference.

ACC's play a significant role with regard to assisting project proponents to submit applications for Regional Partnerships. Because ACC staff and Board members are intimately involved in the project development and apply their local knowledge to the process, they are well placed to complete recommendations to DOTARS on suitability of projects. The procedures that operate in regard to project eligibility, project assessment and approval work well and in this ACC Region we have been able to establish a good reputation for quality service and assistance to project proponents for both this ACC and DOTARS Regional office staff.

A conflict of interest policy among the ACC Board members is rigorously applied and where a conflict is declared or identified, that members takes no part in any conversation, the Board discussions or completion of the recommendations in relation to that project.

From this ACC's perspective, the Regional Partnerships funding is operating well and the Board wishes to advise the inquiry of this position.

Yours faithfully

Roger Grant
Chairman

Geelong Area Consultative Committee



An Australian Government Initiative



- a unit of the Victorian Business Centre, 69 Moorabool St, Geelong 3220
- part of a national network of Area Consultative Committees
- an Australian Government initiative in regional Australia.