



**CENTRAL
QUEENSLAND
AREA
CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE**

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January 25, 2005

Alistair Sands
Secretary
Finance & Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Alistair

Re: Regional Partnership Programme Inquiry

Please find included herewith a brief submission outlining the Central Queensland Area Consultative Committee's response to the inquiry into the process by which projects are proposed, considered and approved for funding.

Again I would like to emphasise that the response is brief however outlining our (CQACC) confidence in all aspects of current processing protocols.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Kym Mobbs
Chairman





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**SUBMISSION
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM**

JANUARY 2005

PREAMBLE: The Regional Partnerships Programme is recognised by the communities of the Central Queensland region as the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring the dismissal of the age long myth, that regional and rural Australia are peripheral to the national interest, the national economy and the nation's future. Regional and rural areas are in fact the cornerstone of Australia's export economy and the foundation of a disproportionately high share of Australia's economic assets and economically productive activity therefore it is imperative that we do what we can to maintain a programme that has the potential to sustain the significant contribution regional areas make.

Regional Partnerships Programme Administration: The Central Queensland Area Consultative Committee (CQACC) recognise the current process by which RPP projects are proposed, considered and approved for funding as equitable and legitimate.

The CQACC works closely with the Department of Transport and Regional Services (Townsville) in all aspects of the RPP process and to date have found that the cooperative and collaborative approach between the CQACC and DOTARS has provided an effective and efficient assessment methodology.

The on-going monitoring of all associated processes by DOTARS is paramount and deemed imperative should the CQACC strive to maintain Best Practice Management Principals. Not unlike any series of processes, our (CQACC) process is far from perfect however as noted, the CQACC works consistently in this regard to improve all aspects of the RP Programme.

**Regional Partnerships Programme Submission – CQACC
Z:Drive/Management//ceo- Reports / January 2005**

The CQACC have gone to great lengths to ensure that all relevant decision making is recorded and based on current, fair and valid data. Given the geographical scope of the CQACC region (32% of the State of Queensland – 24 Shires) the CQACC have to work in conjunction with all tiers of government, business and the community in order to maintain the objective of the noted series of processes.

To adequately service the region, the CQACC has established five (5) sub-committee structures (geographically proportionate) which in turn provide the CQACC and the Regional Partnerships Programme with enormous promotional benefit and access to invaluable local intelligence in terms of local prioritisation and legitimising applicant data.

The Executive (as per attachment) rely heavily on the intelligence provided by the sub-committee in all aspects of the decision making process whereby recommendations are made to the department (DOTARS) in relation to the economic, environmental and social benefits to the region.

One comment that the CQACC would like to make however is that the formula used to fund ACC (Administration) regions (population based formula) needs to be reviewed as soon as practicable. Maintaining equitable access to participation of the Regional Partnerships Programme will require as the competitiveness of the programme increases, higher levels of support.

INTRODUCING THE CENTRAL QLD AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE



Patrick Tanks	Graham Fenton	Vicki Bastin-Byrne	Kym Mobbs	Ron Chudleigh
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Introduction

The National network of Area Consultative Committees (ACCs) provides an important link between the Australian Government and rural and regional Australia. ACCs are uniquely placed to respond to issues in their regions and provide a vital conduit to government on local, social and economic conditions. ACCs work in partnership with the Department of Transport and Regional Services to identify opportunities, priorities and development strategies for their regions.

The Central Queensland Area Consultative Committee has drawn its focus and strategic direction from within the priority areas identified in the charter for the National Network of ACCs and in accordance with the Statement of Priorities issued on behalf of the Australian Government by the Minister for Transport and Regional Services.



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Key Roles of the CQACC

The key roles of the Central Queensland Area Consultative Committee as identified in their charter are:

- To Facilitate growth and development throughout the region
- Act as the link between Government, Business and the Community
- To facilitate whole of Government responses to opportunities in their communities

The ACC charter reflects the ACCs pivotal role in helping communities revitalise local capacity for growth, by assisting regions to harness their own strengths to achieve longer term sustainability. The Government recognizes that the ACCs provide a leading edge model of how to alliance between the collaborative partners which have the capability to build stronger communities and generate new opportunities for sustainable regional development.

ACC and the Region

All ACCs operate with a 3-year Strategic Regional Plan. The current Strategic Regional Plan (SRP) operates over the period July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007. The SRP identifies strategies for addressing the key social, economic and environmental barriers to and taking advantage of local opportunities for regional development. It is not a work plan but a statement of strategic intent which should be adjusted as circumstances change. ACCs are expected to review their SRP each financial year. Any variations to the SRP should be negotiated in the first instance with the Departmental Regional Manager.

Each ACC is required to submit an annual Corporate Business Plan linked to the SRP. The annual Corporate Business Plan documents the ACCs objectives and activities for the implementation of the SRP during each financial year.

Whole of Government Approach

Consistent with the ACC Charter and the Ministerial Statement of Priorities, ACCs are expected to perform specific activities for designated program areas of the Department of Transport and Regional Services. In particular, ACCs core business is the promotion and facilitation of projects under such programs, and they are the key provider of independent advice to the department on issues relevant to such programs. Their role also includes facilitating whole-of-government responses to opportunities in their communities through building stakeholder networks, and through identifying and drawing together the range of resources available to foster regional development.

Individual ACCs may also see opportunities for involvement in other programs that are relevant to the community and those other programs that otherwise compliment the ACCs priorities.

