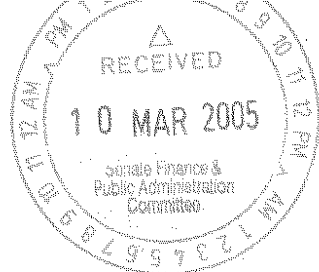


Facsimile



To Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance & Public  
Administration Committee

Fax No. 62775809

Subject GRANT ALLOCATION - SUSTAINABLE REGIONS

From ALAN BRAGG

Telephone 07 40 913034

Fax No. 07 4091 5211

Email

Ref File Ref

Date 10.3.05

Pages 3 (including this page)

RE - GRANT - REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP -  
ATTENTION TABLELAND REGIONAL ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE PROGRAM

INCLUDED IS MY RESPONSE TO  
FUND ALLOCATION TO CLONAL SOLUTIONS  
IN THE TABLELAND REGION.

MY SUBMISSION IS FOR THE  
INQUIRY TO BE HELD IN CAIRNS  
IN APRIL

Yours sincerely  
Alan Bragg

## Recently Announced Grants 2005

My concern is directed at the grant approved /given to Clonal Solutions /Yuruga Nursery at Walkamin on the Atherton Tablelands. A grant of \$583,000-000.

I do not think that the approval for this meets the General Assessment Criteria 1-2-3 -5 -7 of the Guidelines.

The reason I am addressing the Clonal Solutions allocation is because it's an area in which I have knowledge.

As a general comment on this and of other allocations made to this region I ask the question, which points more so to businesses who could well fund themselves, why a free grant of taxpayers money?

### Clonal Solutions Grant

#### Criteria 1-

What are the regional priorities that this proposal was consistent with. I do not know what they are, the only benefit I see here is additional employment

#### Criteria 2-

Clonal solutions are presently producing Eucalyptus clones and Teak clones. They do this for investment companies and in general these companies do not allow the material to be sold to the public. These clones are then of no benefit to zone landholders, most would be unsuitable for the area in any case.

Very few of their clones are planted in the zone by the investment companies, the teak clones go to investments in the Cook Shire and the Cardwell Shire, most of their Eucalyptus have gone to southern states. Investors are nationwide, the investment companies are nationwide, none are local, and one would have to ponder the sustainability of these company investments.

#### Criteria 3-

Is Commonwealth funding really needed for this proposal and how was this determined. If businesses are presently successful which I'd think Yuruga is then should it not finance it's own identified development goals and could this best be done by a loan and not a taxpayer handout.

What is meant by need in the criteria, is it the need of the proponent or is it the need for the project in the region. It seems to me that proponents wants have been satisfied.

Outgrowing clonal material is not a difficult task and many nurseries in North Qld with this amount of additional funding could employ additional staff and capably do the job.

**Criteria 5-**

What was the level of support in the region for the proposal?. Who supported it from a community perspective , it would be most interesting to see the supporting documentation that the approving body used to approve the application. The public that I speak to do not support it, and I think you will find that many individuals and businesses are aghast at this funding allocation.

**Criteria 7-**

It does compete with existing businesses .Yuruga is a nursery growing many plant and varieties and a strong competitor. With this type of expansion it will have the ability to grow many plants by tissue culture, a feature many other nurseries would like to have by being given a similar funding allocation. Yurugas development has seen the demise of other nurseries , the demise of such will continue and will be aided by this allocation.

  
Alan Bragg