



D J McKinley
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18 March 2005

Committee Secretary
SENATE FINANCE AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Ms

I recently forwarded a submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry Regional Partnerships program on behalf of the Dimbulah Reticulated Water Supply Action Group.

I must emphasise that the submission is not in any way representative of applying for a grant through this Senate committee but rather that the Community of Dimbulah is once again relaying to Government that under ATSRAC some funding should have been forthcoming to the Community of Dimbulah (the very hub of the now defunct multi billion dollar tobacco industry) to improve the reticulated water supply to a modern standard to firstly allow the community of Dimbulah to live normal lives and secondly to focus on future development of the town area for without a modern/efficient reticulated water supply no development can take place.

The sustainable regions program was in fact supposed to be a response to the abolishment of the Far North Queensland Tobacco Industry but to the best of my knowledge not one dollar has been allocated to the community of Dimbulah or its surrounding farmers for new and sustainable programs.

Once again I must emphasise that I was a member of the original workshop for ATSRAC held in the Mareeba Shire Hall some 3 years ago. It was quite obvious from that very day that the management of the \$18Million for the Mareeba/Atherton Tablelands was going to be extremely difficult as the majority were simply in a feeding frenzy and were centrally focussed on their own private agendas and consequently millions of dollars from the ATSRAC program has been spent on initiatives that will have little or no benefit to the wider community.

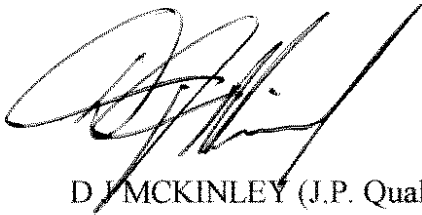
From the information I have provided to this committee of inquiry you can see why the Dimbulah Community have reluctantly prepared a previous submission – they have simply seen it as a waste of time and to be quite honest many have no longer got the energy to lead – this is quite sad to see a community that have been hard workers for so long and now are being treated as second class with a third world reticulated water supply.

The community of Dimbulah would like the committee of inquiry to ask the ASTRAC Committee why the original proposal for a grant to improve the Dimbulah Reticulated Water Supply was not ever mentioned in the final analysis.

As previously mentioned a delegation of concerned citizens of Dimbulah would be available to attend the committee of inquiry in Cairns on 13-14th April 2005 if requested.

The Dimbulah Community commends this Senate Committee Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program to ensure the remaining funds are spent on projects that have direct outcome links with communities.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D J MCKINLEY', written in a cursive style.

D J MCKINLEY (J.P. Qualified)

DIMBULAH RETICULATED WATER SUPPLY ACTION GROUP