



IMPACCT

The Official Newsletter of the Perth Area Consultative Committee

Perth Area Consultative Committee is transitioning to
Regional Development Australia Committee Perth

September 2008

Transitional Changes to the New RDA Network

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The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP announced on March 20 the establishment of Regional Development Australia (RDA) which, on January 1, 2009, will replace Area Consultative Committees (ACCs).

The new RDA network will build on the success of its predecessor, but will take on a broader role to develop strategic input into national programs to improve the coordination of regional development initiatives and ensure that there is effective engagement with local communities.

Perth ACC Community Stakeholder Consultation

Recently Perth ACC has undertaken an extensive consultation process to provide information to the Australian Government to shape the new regional development network - **Regional Development Australia**. Feedback was also sought to develop the priorities and direction for the new **Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program** and to provide the Australian government with information on the most needed types of infrastructure that could encourage economic development in the region. The results of these consultations will be reported to the Hon Gary Gray, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia.

To gather information, two community stakeholder forums were held, one in the north metropolitan region and one in the southern metropolitan region. Face to face meetings with major stakeholders from state, local and regional government were also undertaken. An electronic survey was sent to all Regional Partnerships applicants and other stakeholders unable to attend the forums, as well as being advertised on the Perth ACC web site and links attached to emails.

A summary of the results are on the next page...



Stakeholder Forum at Wanneroo on July 17
 L-R: Gerry Gannon, Facilitator, Senator Judith Adams, Marilyn Horgan, Perth ACC Executive Officer and John Garland Perth ACC Deputy Chair

Key Themes from the Stakeholder Consultation Strategy

The results of the Community Consultation Forums, surveys and interviews to date have been collated and have been summarised as follows:

i) Role of RDA

Stakeholders expressed the view that the RDA role should be;

1. A one stop shop for the community to access information about Commonwealth programs and services.
2. The agency to provide an independent and on the ground view of the whole region and maintain the role of an honest broker between federal, state and local government.
3. Maintaining linkages and partnerships with key stakeholders and across government to identify agreed priorities for the region in infrastructure economic, social and environmental issues.



L-R: Tina Klein, Mayor, Town of Bassendean, Graeme Mackenzie, CEO, City of Fremantle, Gary Evershed, CEO, Town of Bassendean

4. To provide the direct and timely link to Canberra and the Minister on regional issues and needs.
5. Providing assistance to small and disadvantaged communities assisting them to access Australia Government funding and services.
6. To have a formal working relationship with the Major Cities Unit and Infrastructure Australia
7. Adequately resourced to reflect the geographical areas of the region and the importance of RDA to the Government.
8. Adding value through playing the role of 'broker' or 'co-ordinator' of economic development activity.
9. Leveraging resources from others in the public, private and community sectors to address local needs and issues.

ii) New Funding Program

This was considered by the communities consulted to be vital for metropolitan areas to have access to Australian Government funding for economic development projects which improve urban liveability and viability.

In addition participants stressed that:

1. Projects should support economic sustainability, employment self sufficiency, the provision of economic and social services, urban renewal, community amenity and community infrastructure sought by stakeholders.
2. The availability of funding for projects program needs to be broader than just bricks and mortar. They should include funding for a range of projects that assist regional development such as main street revitalisation, tourism and funds to include salaried positions to manage projects to ensure they are successful.
3. There is a need for a funding program to address the needs of the fast growing outer metropolitan areas such as the Better Cities program or a specific stream and funding allocation within the new program for urban and peri urban areas.

iii) Boundaries

Stakeholders expressed the view that the boundaries of RDAc (Perth) should align with communities of interest and complement the State Government Regional Development Boundaries and the South West Group of Councils. This would mean an extension of the current Perth ACC boundaries to include the Town of Kwinana and the City of Rockingham.

RDA (Perth) would need to be resourced to effectively operate in four sectors reflecting the Metropolitan Planning region sectors of North West, North East, South West and South East.

iv) Chair and Board

The process for appointment of the Chair should be for the Commonwealth to advertise for EOI for the role with nominations from interested people and recommendations to go to the Minister for appointment. Chairs should receive remuneration to reflect the requirements of the role.



Ross Weaver, Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Pearl Craig, Lotterywest, Helen Lynes, City of Swan

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The Board should be a key advocate for the region and identify and articulate agreed priorities for action the region. It should consist of 12 members and be skills based with an equitable geographical representation of the region.

v) Perth ACC Services

Community Capacity and Government Information Forums

Seventy percent of respondents rated the Grant Writing and Australian Government Grants Expos as being important or very important to their organisations. The DEWR Better Connections Work Force Skill forums were ranked as important or very important by 60% of respondents.

Project Development Role

Respondents reported a high level of satisfaction with Perth ACC assistance in provision of information on Australian Government funding, project development and the feedback they received on their project proposals.

Adding Value in Economic Development Activity

Respondents valued the role of the Perth ACC in facilitating economic development and have used the organisation in a variety of capacities including access to local contacts and networks, assistance with economic development strategies, employment development initiatives and strategic regional planning.

Inquiry into a New Regional Development Funding Program

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, requested the House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to inquire into and report on the Australian National Audit Office's Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships Program and make recommendations on ways to invest funding in genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure with the aim of enhancing the sustainability and liveability of Australia's regions.

Perth ACC has provided a submission to the Inquiry. It is one of 260 submissions from across the country, representing the views of other ACCs, state and local government, regional development organisations, universities and individuals.

Round table discussions were held across Australia as part of the Inquiry and Perth ACC Executive Officer Marilyn Horgan was invited to participate in a Perth on 30 July, 2008. At the request of the Acting Chair, Mr Paul Neville Marilyn put together an additional paper addressing the proposition that the parameters of the new regional funding program should not be limited to physical capital and infrastructure requirements and should take into account the funding of community, social, environmental and economic needs. This was done in collaboration with ACCs from across Australia who shared examples of projects which supported the funding of projects that met community, social, environmental and economic needs.

The House of Representatives Committee is scheduled to present its report by the end of November and we look forward to the outcomes of the Inquiry and the development of a new regional development funding program to enhance regional development and meet the social, environmental and economic needs of the community.

Both submissions can be accessed at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/itrdlg/regionaldevelopment/subs.htm> (Submission 62 and Supplementary to Submission 62 respectively).

Funding Opportunities

The Perth Area Consultative Committee shares important news on regional development and funding opportunities for the Perth Metropolitan area. If you would like to be kept informed, please subscribe to our mailing list - www.perthacc.com.au/ContactUs.html



Photovoltaic Rebates for Community Buildings

Federal grants are available to not-for-profit and government owned community organisations, and non-government incorporated organisations, under the Australian Government's Solar Homes and Communities Plan for up to 50 percent of the cost of a photovoltaic system up to two kilowatts.

The grants are being offered on a competitive basis which means that applications will be assessed on value for money and on the educational and interpretive merits of the proposal. Assessment of educational merit will be

based on details provided by the applicant of the education, extension, promotion, interpretation and demonstration activities to be undertaken.

For further information, including guidelines, eligibility criteria and an application form, visit the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website at www.environment.gov.au/rebates or call the information line on **1800 808 571**



An Australian Government Initiative



WA Youth Grants

The Youth Grants WA program was established by the State Government to provide funding support for activities that encourage youth participation and the provision of services and facilities for young people.

Grants of up to \$5000 are offered to eligible community organisations to develop projects which encourage the participation of young people in innovative and challenging community projects and activities, and for the development of services and facilities which will achieve these outcomes. Projects must benefit young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years.

There are two more rounds this year. The next round ends on Friday October 24, 2008.

Information on Youth Grants WA and other funding opportunities can be found at:
www.childrenandyouth.wa.gov

or by contacting Ms Aimee Forde, Program Officer, Department for Communities on (08) 6217 8400.



**Department for
Communities
Office for Youth**

AusIndustry is the Australian Government's business program delivery division in the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

AusIndustry delivers a range of more than 30 business programs - including innovation grants, tax and duty concessions, small business development, industry support and venture capital - worth about \$2 billion to more than 10,000 businesses and 80,000 individuals every year.

The Climate Ready Program is one element of the \$240 million Clean Business Australia initiative.

Climate Ready provides grants on a matching funding basis to support projects that address the effects of climate change. A broad range of project applications are expected.

For example:

- water recycling, waste recovery or small scale renewable energy technologies
- technologies that reduce the energy used by appliances or increase the efficiency of industrial processes
- products, processes or services to monitor emissions or power use
- using biotechnology or nanotechnology to address the effects of climate change on people and the environment
- information systems for businesses or consumers to compare the carbon footprints of different activities
- green building materials that make homes more energy efficient

The program offers small grants (\$50,000 to \$500,000) and large grants (\$500,001 to \$5 million).

Who is it for?

Climate Ready supports small and medium-sized businesses.

Companies can apply for funding for any or all aspects of the development of an innovative product, process or service including research and development, proof-of-concept, and early-stage commercialisation.

The small grants support small business, as well as companies controlled by universities and public sector research organisations, through a simpler application form and reduced reporting requirements.

Further information can be found by:

Heading to the www.ausindustry.gov.au website

Contacting the AusIndustry hotline on 13 28 46

By email at hotline@ausindustry.gov.au



An Australian Government Initiative

AusIndustry

donortec

DonorTec, Building ICT capacity for Nonprofits

WWW.DONORTEC.COM.AU | BRINGING TECHNOLOGY DONATIONS TO NON PROFITS

DonorTec provides donated software and hardware from companies such as Microsoft and Cisco to eligible Australian non profit groups with Income Tax Exempt Status (ITE). Via this program you can get the latest products.

This is an exciting program to assist Australian non profits build their ICT capacity and has already assisted hundreds of groups to make huge savings in their operations!

Check out www.donortec.com.au and see if they can help you with your technology needs, so that you can put the savings towards your real work priorities.



The **business.gov.au** website is an online government resource for the Australian business community. By using business.gov.au businesses are able to comply with government requirements more simply and conveniently.

business.gov.au provides a wide range of services and information about start-up, taxation, licensing and legislation, as well as significant transactions such as ABN Lookup, taxation compliance and licence applications. The website is continuously being refined and progressively offers more online transactions in response to business needs.

Growing your business checklist

The business.gov.au *New to business checklist* and *Growing your business checklist* will guide you through the various stages of your business, whether you're just starting or ready to grow.

New to business checklist

Are you new to business? The Australian Government's New to business checklist contains a series of questions to guide you through the various stages of your business including before you start, when you start, when you buy and when you run your business.

Growing your business checklist

Whether you're increasing staff, diversifying products or services, exporting goods, franchising your business or simply moving to bigger premises - the Australian Government's Growing your business checklist covers many of the issues needed to help you grow your business.

Both checklists can be found by visiting <http://www.business.gov.au/checklist>

Business Consultation

Are you or your members interested in having your say about changes to government regulations? Register your interest to be consulted at <http://consultation.business.gov.au>

GovForms

GovForms is a single entry point for businesses to quickly and conveniently find, manage and complete the forms online with all levels of government - everything from registering for an ABN, applying for licences, to simply paying your rates. Visit <http://govforms.business.gov.au> to get started today.

business.gov.au content syndication

Add valuable business information to your website for free, compliments of the business.gov.au content syndication service. Websites are able to republish information for the benefits of their members and staff. Further basic information about the service is available at <http://syndication.business.gov.au> including the range of business info included within the service. Our technical officer can assist you or your webmaster implement the "set and forget" service into your website.

Lotterywest Grants Supporting the Community

Lotterywest is able to support a wide variety of not-for-profit, community-based proposals that enhance the lives of Western Australians right across the State.

Lotterywest grants support people with special needs, disadvantaged people in the community, and initiatives that contribute towards the quality of life for all members of the Western Australian community. Grant opportunities support the diversity of communities and community services complementing contributions from the applicant, government, and the private sector.

Five broad objectives provide the framework for Lotterywest grant-making and aspirations for the WA community:

- Extending the Capacity of Not-For-Profit Organisations
- Strengthening Community Service Delivery
- Enhancing Community Development Initiatives
- Valuing our State's Heritage
- Advancing Participation in Community Life

Areas where Lotterywest grants are helping to make a difference include:

- Organisations working with children, young people, seniors, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people or people in crisis
- World class social research
- Volunteer organisations like Surf Life Saving WA and Sea Search and Rescue
- The conservation of our State's cultural and natural heritage
- Events ranging from a small rural community celebration to the Anzac Day commemorations
- Community facilities such as skate parks and playgrounds and the Headquarters youth facility
- Projects which enable people to participate in community life or tackle local issues

For more information on the types of grants and eligibility, contact Lotterywest on **9340 5270** or email grants@lotterywest.wa.gov.au



Community Broadcasting Grants

The Community Broadcasting Foundation is an independent non-profit funding agency that solicits and distributes funds for the maintenance and development of community broadcasting in Australia including specialist services for Ethnic, Indigenous and Radio for the Print Handicapped audiences.

CBF funding assists community broadcasting organisations in urban, regional, rural and remote Australia to produce media by and for their communities. The following funding rounds are currently open:

Training Innovation Projects Grant

Funds are available to assist with the sustainability and development of Australian community broadcasting through grants to support innovative capacity building projects outside the scope of other Training grant categories that result in the effective delivery of broadcast and management training (operations and governance) within the sector.

Creative partnerships between stations and organisations whose goals are compatible with those of community broadcasting are encouraged, however the application must come from the station/sector organisation.

Deadline for these grants is October 13, 2008. Grants are not available to stations broadcasting under a narrowcast licence. A station with a temporary licence must have been on air for at least two years cumulatively prior to applying.

The grant guidelines include important information about this grant category including what you can use the grant for and the criteria used by the Training Grants Advisory Committee to assess your application.

Please read the guidelines for full details and eligibility. These can be found at http://www.cbf.com.au/grants_reporting.asp or by contacting Jo Curtin, Grants Administrator. Telephone: (03) 9419 8055

Email: granta@cbf.com.au

Broadcast Training Grant

Funds are available to assist licensed community radio stations to provide accredited broadcast skills training for broadcasters, staff and volunteers, ensuring long term benefit to the station.

Grants are not available to stations broadcasting under a narrowcast licence. A station with a temporary licence must have been on air for at least two years cumulatively prior to applying.

The grant guidelines include important information about this grant category including what you can use the grant for and the criteria used by the Training Grants Advisory Committee to assess your application.

GrantsLINK

The GrantsLINK website helps you find funding available under a variety of grant programs for individuals, businesses and communities to help you to develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance in times of hardship.

GrantsLINK makes it easier to find suitable and relevant grants for your community projects from the many Australian government grants that are available.

Information on grants is provided by relevant portfolio agencies and Government departments.

Access GrantsLINK at www.grantslink.gov.au or call toll free 1800 026 222



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government

Volunteer Grants Program 2008

The Volunteer Grants Program 2008 recognises the valuable work of Australia's volunteers and is part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to supporting volunteers and encouraging volunteering in local communities. Funding is available to eligible not-for-profit organisations to purchase small equipment and sporting items to help their existing volunteers and to encourage more people to become volunteers. Organisations will be able to request funding to contribute towards reimbursement to their volunteers for fuel costs incurred in their volunteering work. This will assist volunteers in their important work, including those who use their cars to transport others to activities, deliver food and assist people in need.

The Volunteer Grants Program 2008 provides funding to help not for profit organisations to:

- buy tangible, small equipment items to help volunteers, and/or
- cover costs such as club sporting equipment and uniforms, training of volunteer sports coaches, and travel for specific sports-related purposes, and/or
- contribute towards fuel reimbursement for their volunteers.

The funding round is expected to be very competitive and it is essential that applicants read the guidelines and answer all mandatory questions when applying. The funding program is currently open and closes on **Friday 17 October 2008** at 5pm AEDT.



An Australian Government Initiative



Is my organisation eligible?

The Volunteer Grants Program 2008 application guidelines provides information about the program, the types of eligible organisations and what items are eligible under the program. Guidelines and application forms can be found at the www.fahcsia.gov.au website - follow the link from the News heading.

How much funding can organisations apply for?

Funding requests may range from a minimum of \$1000 up to a maximum of \$5000 per organisation.

Further information:

For any enquiries relating to the Volunteer Grants Program 2008 please:

phone the toll-free hotline **1800 183 374** (9am to 5pm AEDT, Monday to Friday) or

email vgp2008@fahcsia.gov.au.