



11 July 2008

Committee Secretariat  
 Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local  
 Government  
 PO Box 6021  
 House of Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Selth

### **INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM**

I am writing in response to your call for submissions to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program.

I have prepared a briefing to provide you with general background about Lotterywest, and more specifically about our support for regional development projects in Western Australia through our Grants and Community Development Program.

#### **Lotterywest Grants and Community Development**

Thanks to the profits derived from the sale of games such as Lotto and Scratch'n'Win, Lotterywest is able to support a wide variety of not-for-profit, community based proposals that enhance the lives of Western Australians throughout the State. Our grant making role is unique in Australia, with private and Government lottery organisations in other States providing surplus funds to consolidated revenue. Lotterywest enjoys a direct relationship with the Western Australian community.

In 2007/08 a total of 1,270 grants totalling \$86.8 million were made to 1,035 different organisations. This amount is in addition to statutory allocations, bringing the total of grants made to over \$205 million.

#### **Regional Projects in Western Australia and Lotterywest support**

As you will be aware the Regional Partnerships Program has previously provided a major resource for regional Western Australia. Historically, Lotterywest has been able to provide grants to organisations receiving Regional Partnerships Funding where the project outcomes provided broad community benefit. The local level information that Area Consultative Committees were able to provide was particularly valuable to our grant making. In turn, Lotterywest was able to exchange information with the Committees in a reciprocal relationship which sought to respond to community needs through community organisations.

Lotterywest has been a key partner and contributor by providing complementary support for community projects funded under the Regional Partnerships Program. The primary area for Lotterywest support for projects in receipt of Regional Partnerships Funding was for construction and fit out of buildings however it has also included other broader community projects.

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Lotteries Commission of Western Australia  
 trading as Lotterywest®



Some examples of projects that were achieved through joint support from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and Lotterywest include:

- Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley - \$100,000 was granted by Lotterywest towards the construction of the purpose built Kununurra Child Care Centre to consolidate child care services in the Kununurra. The Lotterywest grant complemented funding from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to support the childcare needs of this community.
- Bunbury Diocesan Trustees (St Johns Community Care) - \$787,878 was granted by Lotterywest towards the construction of the St John's Community Centre in Albany, providing long term affordable accommodation for a number of community service organisations. Lotterywest support provided a proportion of the funds required for the Diocese to be able to move forward with the project and assist with securing the additional funds required including support from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.
- Albany Surf Life Saving Club - \$300,000 was granted by Lotterywest towards the extension of the organisation's club rooms to support the activities of volunteers in the delivery of emergency services. The project received support from Local and State Government, as well as Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.
- Shire of Esperance - \$146,460 was granted by Lotterywest towards construction costs for a community shed to provide a venue for the Esperance Men in Sheds project. The project supports community members to participate in a range of activities that appeal to a cross section of this community, especially socially isolated men, retirees and veterans. This project also received support from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.
- City of Albany (Anzac Peace Park) - \$720,500 was granted by Lotterywest to install interpretive elements including signage, furniture and art components to tell the story of Albany's military heritage, using the departure to war as inspiration for the arrival of peace. The Park is part of a major revitalisation of the Albany waterfront and will provide space for outdoor performances, artistic activities and festivals as well as contemplation and reflection.
- Infoxchange - \$42,500 was granted by Lotterywest towards projects costs, including salaries and transport costs. The Green PC Project will be operated by Infoxchange and aims to make technology more accessible to people from a low income background, those who have a disability or those who might in other ways experience some disadvantage. The primary activity undertaken to support this goal is the provision of very low cost, internet ready computers, along with basic computer training, to help people bridge the "digital divide".

A new Regional Development Funding Program would contribute to and support the capacity of Western Australia's regional community to secure resources and develop key partnerships to address community needs. This would include projects that have the potential to attract Lotterywest support. Such an approach ensures that viable regional projects of scale take a true partnership approach by leveraging broader input into a project's development and resourcing.

If a Regional Development Funding Program of similar scale to the Regional Partnerships Program is not implemented, Lotterywest would anticipate that many regional projects, both building construction and broader projects, would not eventuate. This in turn would have a significant negative impact on Western Australian regional communities.



Thank you for providing the opportunity for input into this Inquiry. If you have any further queries please contact Andrea Taman, Manager Policy Planning and Promotion at [andrea.taman@lotterywest.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrea.taman@lotterywest.wa.gov.au) or on telephone 9340 5270.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Teale".

**MARK TEALE**  
Assistant Director  
Grants and Community Development