



*Central Coast
Aboriginal Men's Group*

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ABN 67 343 490 940

Mr. Michael Crawford – Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local
Government
House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Crawford

**SUBJECT: SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FUNDING PROGRAM**

We thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the Standing Committee regarding a New Regional Development Funding Program. We make this submission addressing the need for future funding of regional programs to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects and ways to minimise administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.

The Central Coast Aboriginal Men's Group (CCAMG) was formed by Aboriginal men to assist in building healthy and supportive relationships within the family and community. The CCAMG became incorporated on 19 September 2005 through the NSW Office of Fair Trading under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984. Members of the CCAMG are in the process of establishing governance systems and see good governance as essential to the effective operations of the group.

The CCAMG had not submitted an application for Regional Development Funding but were about to do so when the program ceased. We would apply in partnership with our Local Aboriginal Land Council if a new Regional Development Funding Program is established.

There is a genuine need for groups and individuals to continue to have the opportunity to pursue 'Regional Development Funding' for Infrastructure Projects. We are located on the Central Coast of NSW between Sydney and Newcastle. Although the Central Coast is a 'region' in it's own right with a total population of almost 300,000 and an Aboriginal population in excess of 6,000, we are continually overlooked with the larger centres receiving most resourcing opportunities. This is necessary for communities to take positive steps for our current and future generations.

I understand the Regional Partnerships Program application and approval process was quite involved. I suggest that close collaboration by the Department via their state and/or regional office staff should not incorporate duplication of effort with the preparation, approval or evaluation processes.

The CCAMG would appreciate the opportunity to present to a roundtable or public hearing. I note NSW roundtables are currently scheduled for Dubbo and Nowra and request you consider holding one on the Central Coast. This would be convenient for Sydney and Newcastle groups/individuals to attend.

I thank you for the opportunity to present a submission for a new Regional Development Funding Program.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on (02) 4321-5052 during working hours to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully,

Mick Pittman
Board Member
Central Coast Aboriginal Men's Group
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13 July 2008