



AMACC Up-Date

Issue 5 August 2008

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

A TIME OF TRANSITION

Change is afoot and the Board and staff of AMACC are rolling up their sleeves in preparation for Regional Development Australia – the Australian Government’s new network for regional development. This may be the last newsletter you receive from us under the name of Adelaide Metropolitan Area Consultative Committee (AMACC)!

On January 1, 2009, the national Network of Area Consultative Committees (ACCs) will become Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees.

In a statement made by the new Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, on 20 March 2008, he broadly outlined the role of RDA:

“.....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.....”

The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development, the Hon Gary Gray AO MP on 1st August 2008 stated “.....RDA will have a much broader and more strategic role than the previous network. By building on and replacing the ACCs, RDA offers a real opportunity to provide a supporting mechanism for communities with a vision and the determination to make that vision a reality.”

The new RDA will be a national network that ensures there is effective engagement with local communities.

A NEW REGIONAL FUNDING PROGRAM

The announcement of the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP) was made as part of the Australian Government’s new direction for regional Australia in the 2008-09 Federal Budget. The RLCIP, together with the Better Regions election commitments, will replace the Sustainable Regions and Regional Partnerships Programs.

This program will “...deliver major investments in regional and local community, recreational and environmental infrastructure initiatives.”

In this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Regional Development Australia | 1 |
| Have Your Say | 2 |
| Survey of RP Proponents | 3 |
| Recently Funded Projects | 5 |
| Better Regions | 6 |
| Getting it Right | 6 |

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government is conducting an inquiry into the future role and structure of regional funding. An aspect of the Committee's work is to examine the former Government's practices and grants outlined in the ANAO report on Regional Partnerships. The Committee ".....will also make recommendations on ways to invest funding in community infrastructure and regional economic initiatives to enhance the sustainability and liveability of Australia's regions."

The findings and recommendations from the Inquiry will assist with the development of the new RLCIP. (AMACC submitted its views to the Inquiry based on consultations with proponents of the Regional Partnerships Program. Further information about the Inquiry can be found at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/itrdlg/regionaldevelopment/subs.htm)

The creation of the RLCIP is part of a wider range of initiatives designed to benefit all Australians, including:

- Regional Development Australia
- Better Regions Program
- Infrastructure Australia
- Office of Northern Australia
- Major Cities Unit
- Council of Australian Local Governments

More information about these is available at www.acc.gov.au

HAVE YOUR SAY

In shaping both the new RDA structure and the new RLCIP, ACCs have been asked by the Parliamentary Secretary to consult with their regions and provide advice to the Government on three issues:

- First, on improving the engagement of regional communities, regional development organisations and local governments with the Australian Government.
- Second, on the principles and priorities for the new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.
- Third, on the priorities for the types of local community infrastructure that could encourage economic development in local communities.

AMACC's Executive Director Anne Evans, and Project Development Manager Debra Anderson, have been out and about talking to key stakeholders in the Adelaide metro region. Local Councils and State Government officers, community organisations, elected members, and industry and business associations have been approached to provide face-to-face input regarding the new role for AMACC and the priorities for the new RLCIP. In addition, 46 Regional Partnerships Program proponents have been interviewed by telephone by Truscott Research and surveyed about their experience with that (now defunct) funding program, and their perceptions of the new role for RDAs.

A report on the first issue is due on August 31st and will cover:

- Potential role of RDA committees
- Boundaries of RDA committees in SA
- Committee structure and membership
- Reporting responsibilities

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to put forward your ideas, we invite you to do so now and in whatever way you choose. Phone, email, fax, or a formal written submission are all welcome. If you'd like a template of topics that you can complete in Word and return by email, please contact Debra at projects@amacc.org.au.

SURVEY OF AMACC'S REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROPONENTS

In June, AMACC commissioned Truscott Research to undertake a telephone survey of AMACC's Regional Partnerships Program proponents. The purpose of the survey was threefold:

1. To seek views on the efficacy of the RP Program (to feed into the House of Representatives Standing Committee's RP Inquiry)
2. To appraise the role of AMACC in the application process, and
3. To seek views regarding the future regional development funding program.

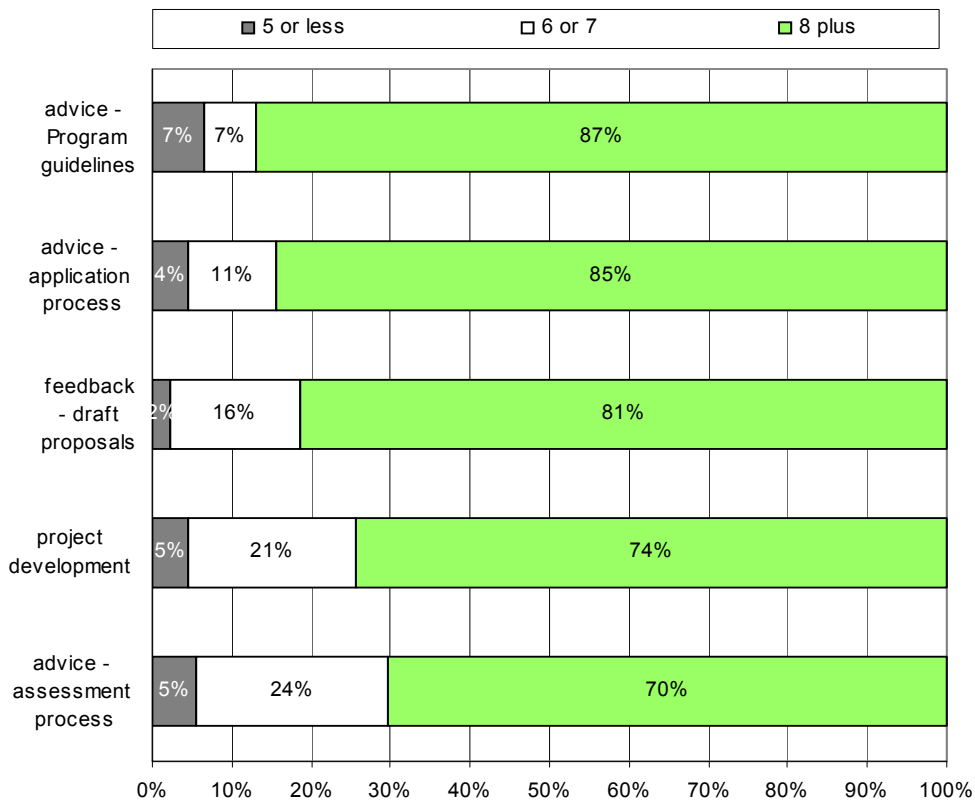
Forty six (46) interviews were conducted. Of these 41% had been successful in the application for funding, 13% had been unsuccessful, 33% had submitted their proposal but the Program had been closed following the 2007 election, and the remainder had withdrawn or not yet submitted their proposal.

The findings indicated that many proponents had been frustrated by what they considered to be a long winded and proponent-unfriendly application process and the uncertainty of the timeframe regarding the final decision. Eighty five percent (85%) of respondents indicated that they preferred the rolling application process compared with 7% who advocated for funding rounds.

We are pleased to report that proponents were very positive regarding their experience with AMACC through the application process. Well over 90% gave a rating of 6/10 and the majority gave ratings of 8/10 or higher for each of the areas of advice and assistance that AMACC provided.

The results are summarised in graph form below.

RATINGS - AMACC's PERFORMANCE IN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROCESS



In addition, 74% attributed the success of their application “to a great extent” to AMACC.

The following table shows that survey respondents had a range of suggestions regarding the focus for a new regional development program

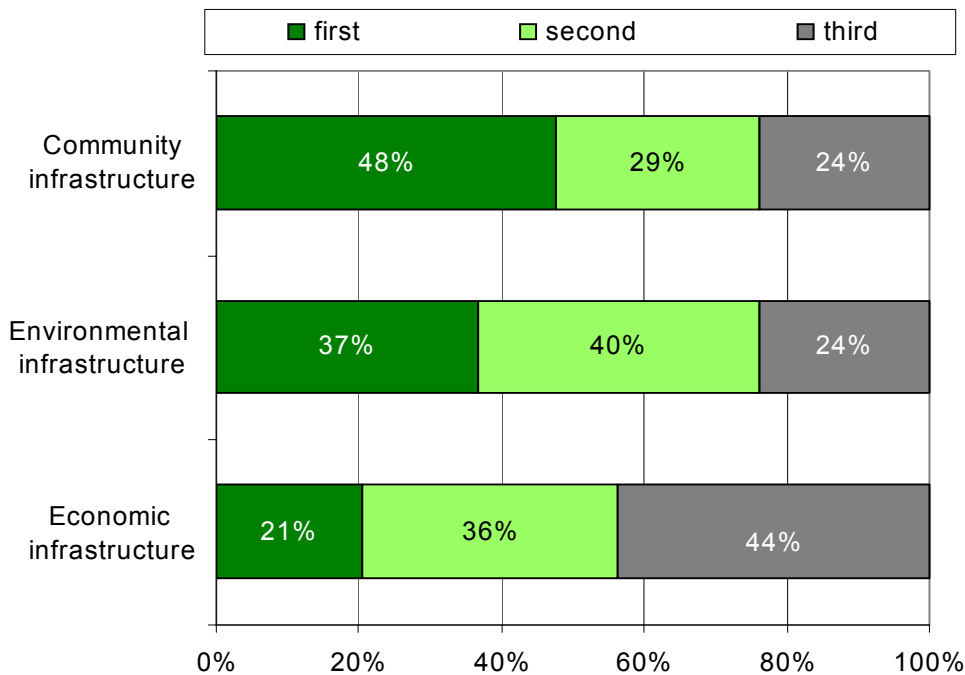
In your opinion, what should be the broad priority areas for a new regional development program?

(Inc. multiple responses)

| | FIRST | SECOND | THIRD |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Community groups | 26% | 13% | 2% |
| Business/industry/economic dev | 7% | 2% | 4% |
| Sport & recreation | 7% | 2% | 0% |
| Environmental projects | 2% | 9% | 0% |
| Infrastructure – large projects | 7% | 0% | 2% |
| Health | 2% | 4% | 4% |
| Infrastructure – small projects | 2% | 0% | 2% |
| Other | 37% | 37% | 35% |
| Don't know | 11% | 33% | 50% |

Proponents were also asked to rank community infrastructure, economic infrastructure and environmental infrastructure in order of priority. The results appear below.

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES



Finally, proponents were asked to comment on what AMACC’s role should be in the future.

There were many suggestions of how it should be expanded beyond what it has been doing including:

- *A capacity-building role for not-for-profit organisations / developing a networking function*
- *Advising and advocating for community groups / helping produce the best possible funding applications*
- *Advisory group and facilitator, and not just linked to DOTARS but also to other govt depts, including federal, state and local govt*

- *One role/agency to represent federal interests, DOTARS resources attached to AMACC in a one-stop shop*
- *Adopt AMACC model to be broad focal point for all federally funded opportunities*
- *As advocates / involvement with community groups / providing verbal or written advocacy rather than mere application-form assistance / application forms should be simple enough as to be usable by the general population in the first place*
- *AMACC should provide an information service, getting information to grass roots level / not just facilitate*
- *Broader role in assisting organisations across whole range of grants*
- *Broader scope of works regarding contribution to local govt development, especially with new areas*
- *Defining how it fits in strategically with regional development plans*
- *Engaging not-for-profit sector with the business sector and government departments*
- *Generate their own programs with the money to do it*
- *Government policy input*
- *Input at local govt level/advising and facilitating with collaborative projects*
- *More general areas of broker or network facilitator in areas of community and regional development*
- *Post-funding follow up/ because of reporting requirements, follow up should be done by AMACC so full conditions of funding can be fulfilled.*

AMACC will be using the findings from the survey plus the many one-on-one interviews and any submissions to develop reports to the Parliamentary Secretary regarding the future role and structure of AMACC, the priorities for the new RLCIP funding program, and the key infrastructure priorities for the region and SA.

RECENTLY FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE AMACC REGION

The Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development, Hon Gary Gray AO MP, last week announced that 86 projects, previously approved under the Regional Partnerships program but not contracted, would be funded as they would clearly provide significant benefits for local communities.

Two of these projects are in the AMACC region and the 100,000 resident population of the City of Tea Tree Gully will be the beneficiaries.

The Tilley Reserve Building Refurbishment project will involve:

- improving the amenity and functionality of the site, including two major buildings;
- enhancing access to the site
- increasing participation in a broad range of sporting, recreational and social opportunities it offers;
- encouraging healthy, active and inclusive lifestyles; and
- promoting a stronger sense of community and community pride.

The project is worth \$1.25m, of which half will be funded by Council, community and business.

The Harpers Field Community Centre project will incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles including solar energy production and stormwater retention and re-use.

A number of sporting clubs, service clubs and community groups will be accommodated at the Centre.

BETTER REGIONS

In addition to these projects, the AMACC region also benefited from nearly \$10m in funding from the Australian Government's Better Regions Program. This program funds election commitments and in 2008/09 is worth \$34m.

The Marion Sports and Community Club Incorporated were beneficiaries attracting nearly \$1m of a \$2.5m project to be used to significantly upgrade this regional sporting facility.

Also in the south, the Brighton Secondary School in partnership with the Holdfast Council will receive \$2.2m for upgrading a youth performing arts facility.

The Hope Valley Uniting Church also received \$875K to build a new hall that will result in expanded programs for aged, isolated parents and youth.

In the North, the Playford Aquadome that services over ¼ million patrons each year will receive \$2.2m towards the \$13.3M project that will involve a major upgrade of the site resulting in:

Increased access to health, sport and recreation and educational programs and facilities with a particular focus on: people with disabilities and their carers;

- Older people;
- Indigenous participation;
- Youth leadership;
- Families with young children.

Also in the North, the Angle Vale Multi-Purpose Community Centre project will provide a new community focus in a rapidly growing area that has no local facilities. \$1m of Better Regions funding has been allocated to it.

GETTING IT RIGHT

Unfamiliar cross cultural settings can cause confusion for employers seeking to employ Indigenous workers, and for job seekers and employees. AMACC has produced a resource to facilitate improved understanding.

Entitled *Getting Indigenous Employment Right: A Quick Guide for Employers and Job Seekers*, it comprises two booklets, one for employers and one for job seekers. It is designed to provide practical advice regarding the cultural expectations of both parties.

AMACC has a limited supply of these kits and additional copies of just the job seeker guide. If you'd like some, please contact Sue Smith on 8232 8843 or admin@amacc.org.au.

AMACC BOARD MEMBERS

Ms Melissa Cadzow

Ms Di Ewens

Ms Mary Kosiak (A/G Chair)

Ms Kira Kudinoff

Ms Carmel O'Loughlin

Ms Fij Miller

Mr Chris Russell

Mr Klynton Wanganeen

AMACC STAFF

Executive Director: Anne Evans

Projects: Debra Anderson

Administration: Sue Smith

Adelaide Metropolitan Area Consultative Committee

PO Box 3138, RUNDLE MALL SA 5000. Phone: 08 8232 8843, Fax: 08 8232 8845,
Email: exec@amacc.org.au www.amacc.org.au

ACCs - the Australian Government's Regional Development Network



An Australian Government Initiative

