

## SUBMISSION to Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

There are several fundamentals that need to be defined before deciding what criteria should be used to develop a new, accountable and efficient Regional Development Funding Program.

These fundamentals are:

- a. what is meant by regional?
- b. what is a development?
- c. what is community infrastructure?

### **what is meant by regional?**

In preparing this submission, a region is any community of interest regardless of geographical proximity but within a defined area with defined geographical boundaries.

It is therefore possible to determine that a community of interest can be within a Shire boundary or within two or three or even more local government areas but with common needs and interests.

The South East Australian Transport Strategy Inc is therefore within the definition but so is the area between Victoria Creek within the Eurobodalla Shire and Dignams Creek on the border of the Eurobodalla Shire with Bega Valley Shire or the area between Wollongong, Picton Road and its bordering Shires.

### **what is a development?**

A development is any infrastructure which benefits the whole of the region and which fulfils a need within that community such as a sewerage scheme or a road, port or intermodal distribution hub. It can also be a community hall, memorial, swimming pool or any other need for infrastructure which could not be built without the funding being provided by government or by private partnership between government and private enterprise.

### **what is community infrastructure?**

Community infrastructure is that infrastructure which delivers a service or range of services to a community living within the region. Therefore, a road such as the Princes Highway or the Gocup Road or the rail link between Morwell and Melbourne or a sea port or airport is community infrastructure.

### **Applications for funding of project**

We believe that a model used some time ago to deliver funding to land care projects is a good basis on which to deliver funding to community infrastructure projects.

Projects should be determined by a proposing body such as a Council, a group of Councils or an organisation with interest in stimulating economic development through the provision of infrastructure.

These proposers should nominate a project, define it, justify its community advantages and prepare preliminary forecasts of the cost of the project.

These proposals should be submitted to the Department of Infrastructure by a particular date and then these proposals should be assessed by a Departmental officer.

All proposals should be assessed under a particular weighting criteria.

A State body should then be set up to consider these applications and to advise the Minister which projects to fund.