

**Proposal to House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government:**



**Regional Development through Regional Centres for the Future**

**Context**

- National population growth is focused largely on metropolitan locations which have increasingly compromised lifestyle and infrastructure issues.
- Regions receive focus in cases of (economic) significance, eg mining and energy, yet generally have important infrastructure gaps, eg poor broadband capacity, that reduces opportunity for input to national issues.
- Metro centres, near metro regional centres and peri-urban corridors are experiencing erratic and challenging, rather than planned growth. Their growth may not be 'balanced', eg having economic 'drivers' to foster community cohesion and wellbeing.
- Cities, regional locations and regions will experience 'rapid', challenging change as results of climate change, population growth, and changes in resource availability.

There is an opportunity for integrated national development with regional and metropolitan centres working more collaboratively and developing sustainable regional communities.

**Opportunities**

A key part of national planning is development of strategic regional centres to provide productive and sustainable communities as complementary alternatives to metro centres.

Planning for these centres should be internationally-referenced and collaborative between:

- Regional communities;
- Local, State and national governments and policy makers;
- Quasi-government agencies providing services and infrastructure; and
- Public and private planners.

Regions and regional centres can alleviate or compensate climate change affects that are most notably produced in metropolitan locations.

These new opportunities warrant detailed investigation and feasibility studies. On present indications Regional Development Australia will not consider these issues. This is also an opportunity to present options to RDA and work collaboratively with them.

**Objectives**

- Facilitate initiatives that increase regional and national economic productivity and wellbeing, or eliminate barriers to productivity, and build community cohesion<sup>1</sup>;
- Identify and promote regional initiatives that reduce or eliminate climate change affects.

**Nature and Scope of Studies**

- Consult leading representatives and groups in selected metropolitan centres concerning regional ventures that will reduce climate changing emissions, provide sustainable *regional centres for the future* to take pressure from burgeoning metro centres, create new economic wellbeing for the regional centres and nation, and foster community cohesion.
- Consult leading representatives and groups<sup>2</sup> in, and acting for, regional centres concerning regional ventures that will reduce climate changing emissions, provide sustainable *regional centres for the future* to take pressure from burgeoning metro centres, create new economic wellbeing for the regional centres and nation, and foster community cohesion.

**Doug Lloyd, CEO**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008**

<sup>1</sup> Priority is on initiatives that create metropolitan-regional synergy and/or collaboration.

<sup>2</sup> Inc Committee for Ballarat and national Committee for ... colleagues, regional development groups, and Regional Cities Victoria CfB proposal to HR Standing Committee on ... Regional Development ..., DL Oct 2008