

Ph: 0419 751 846
E : margaret.blade@rdabrisbane.org.au



4 March 2011

www.rdabrisbane.org.au
www.rda.gov.au

All Postal
Correspondence
PO Box 974
Spring Hill Qld 4004

Dr Ian Holland
Committee Secretary
Select Committee on the Reform of the Australian Federation
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Holland

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY BY THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REFORM OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION

Reference: Relations between federal, state and local governments

Further to my appearance on 1 February 2011 at the Brisbane public hearing of the above Inquiry, I wish to clarify some points that may have led to members and witnesses gaining an impression that the role and work of the RDA Brisbane committee did not address a broad spectrum of responsibilities.

While not seeing itself as another level of government and recognising that Brisbane is served by a large and competent council, RDA Brisbane is playing both a strategic and practical role in working with and between the three levels of government to deliver outcomes for the community. In so doing, we have been implementing our Regional Roadmap since it was submitted on 10th September 2010 notwithstanding that formal endorsement by the relevant Federal and State Government Departments is still pending on a national basis.

One such example is in relation to a Regional Roadmap priority relating to Future Workforce – workforce planning, education retention and skills development – where we are working with government and industry to organise a series of Workforce Futures Forums, in the first instance covering the South West Brisbane area, to bring stakeholders together to better match education and training with the skill and workforce needs of industry/business. Parallel with this, we are taking a regional leadership role in developing an analysis of critical skills and occupation shortages faced by the key competitive industries in the wider Brisbane metropolitan region and to identify effective strategies to address these gaps.

We also now welcome an announcement yesterday from the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean, that a new Regional



An Australian Government Initiative



Development Australia Fund (an amalgamation of the previously proposed Regional Infrastructure Fund and Priority Regional Infrastructure Program) will soon be open to take applications, and that this Fund is applicable across the 55 RDA regions of Australia including metropolitan regions on a competitive basis. RDA Brisbane will take an active role in sourcing and considering applications for funding to address regional priorities that we have identified in our Regional Roadmap.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these supplementary comments.

Yours sincerely

(...)

Margaret Blade
Executive officer