

Submission
No 2

INQUIRY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE OUTSIDE THE SYDNEY CBD

Organisation: Greater Taree City Council
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Date Received: 15/08/2008

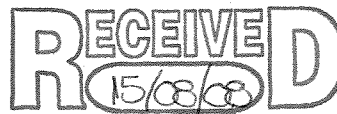
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File No: GT114-6 (08/15214)
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Enquiries: Ms Black



11 August 2008

Administration Centre 2 Pulteney Street
PO Box 482, Taree NSW 2430
DX 7020, Taree

The Committee Manager
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2430



Dear Ms Watson

Please accept the following information as Greater Taree City Council's contribution to the Public Work Committee's inquiry into the development of arts and cultural infrastructure outside the Sydney CBD:

- Council has considered funding the development of a Cultural Plan for the past three years. Unfortunately, resources have not enabled the work to be undertaken. In relation to allocation of the task to existing staff, the Committee is advised that maintenance and operation of Council's art and cultural infrastructure (Manning Entertainment Centre and Manning Regional Art Gallery) currently depends heavily on volunteer support due to the lack of staffing resources and therefore time does not permit for the development of a Cultural Plan utilising existing staff resources.
- Each of the infrastructures (referred to previously) has a strategic plan for development.
- Council in partnership with the community, through volunteerism, is the greatest contributor to the funding of art and cultural infrastructure.
- It is considered that not enough public money is made available through State grants and that the process is onerous on staff. It is also considered that the current division of funding per area is inequitable and should be based on population.
- Significant private sponsorship is difficult to come by, in that the large multinational, national and statewide corporate funding is spent on metro events rather than regional. Leaving small local corporations to sponsor local events. Competition is therefore evident for a number of local art and cultural events and the actual dollar value is small.
- It would seem apparent that funding opportunities at each level of government for the development of art and cultural infrastructure should be more closely aligned to ensure the same outcomes are met by the combined grants received.

It should be noted that Council does recognise the value and the significance of the development of a local Cultural Plan. Council has experienced the failure of grant applications in the absence of such a plan.

I trust that the comment made will be of some value to discussion. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 6592 5285.

Yours Sincerely

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MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES

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