

Submission
No 31

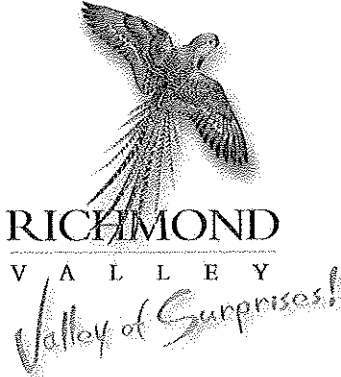
INQUIRY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND
CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE OUTSIDE THE SYDNEY
CBD

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Date Received: 29/08/2008

Council's Reference:
DWS 273340 WH/AP

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28 August 2008



Ms Catherine Watson
Committee Manager
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Madam

Inquiry into the Development of Arts and Cultural Infrastructure outside the Sydney CBD

Council is pleased to have the opportunity to make the following submission in regard to the above Inquiry.

It is considered that there is a need for increased funding for the Capital Infrastructure Grants Program particularly in those local government areas such as Richmond Valley Council where Council finds it difficult to compete with other demands of the community due to its low rate base. Currently only 17% of Council's total revenue for 2008/2009 consists of general rates which is less than half of the State average.

At the same time, Councils such as Richmond Valley Council which are predominantly rural in nature can be subject to other pressures in regard to cultural infrastructure. Indeed this Council area has been identified as having the highest population growth rate in the Northern Rivers Region of 3.5% (*ABS 2006*).

The Council area has also been identified as a growth area in the next twenty years and needs to plan for a population increase of 138% based on a need for an additional 9,900 dwellings, above the current level of 8,710 (*NSW Department of Planning: Far North Coast Regional Strategy 2006*).

The Creative Industries in the Northern Rivers area are also growing at a faster rate than the rest of the regional economy (3.9% compared to 3.1%) and faster than anywhere else in regional NSW.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

**The General Manager,
RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL**

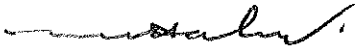
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Obviously, Council needs to cater for this growth and is proposing to construct a Community and Cultural Centre at Casino where the majority of the growth is anticipated to occur. Accordingly, it is suggested that the funding for cultural capital infrastructure should take into account small rural Councils and consider a 75/25 split instead of the dollar for dollar current requirement.

Council is also represented on the Arts Northern Rivers Board, together with six other Councils in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW. The Board is also making a submission to the Inquiry and Council is supportive of this on the basis of a regional approach to capital infrastructure requirements in the area.

Council appreciates the opportunity to make this submission to the NSW Public Works Committee.

Yours faithfully



Wayne Halcrow
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES