



The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Regional Development
Vice President of the Executive Council
Leader of the House – Legislative Council

23 NOV 2007

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
COMMITTEES

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Mr Ian Cohen MLC
Chair
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cohen

I refer to the examination of proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas of Lands, Rural Affairs and Regional Development held by General Purpose Standing Committee No. 5 on 26 October 2007.

I undertook to provide information in response to a number of questions raised during the examination relating to my Regional Development Portfolio. The information is enclosed.

If you require further information in relation to this matter, please contact Anthony Reed, Policy Adviser in my office on (02) 9228 3999.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Regional Development

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
BY THE MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUDGET ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO.5
26th OCTOBER 2007**

**EXAMINATION OF PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR THE PORTFOLIO AREAS
OF LANDS, RURAL AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT –RAISED BY
THE HON TREVOR KHAN MLC**

Regional Development Portfolio

QUESTION 1: Population growth in NSW

ANSWER:

I am advised that Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for population growth in NSW are as follows:

- from 2005 to 2006 the yearly growth for regional NSW was 0.84%
- from 2005 to 2006 the yearly growth for Sydney was 0.89%
- from 2001 to 2006 the average annual growth rate for regional NSW was 0.7%
- from 2001 to 2006 the average annual growth rate for Sydney was 0.8%

QUESTION 2: Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre

ANSWER:

The Department of State and Regional Development has offered of \$215,000 to Back O' Bourke Centre Limited toward the establishment of the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and business planning to support a case for Federal Government funding for the centre.

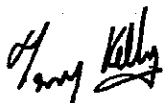
QUESTION 3: Barwon Darling Alliance area

ANSWER:

Since mid 2004 the Department of State and Regional Development has offered assistance for a range of projects in the Barwon Darling Alliance area.

Under its Business Investment Programs the Department has facilitated seven projects representing over \$21 million in capital investment and the creation or retention of 166 jobs. Projects facilitated include establishment of a 10,000 head feedlot with a stockfeed processing plant in Coonamble and expansion of a road freight business in Bourke. Under its New Market Expansion Program, the Department has offered assistance to three firms - Barriekneal Housing & Community Ltd, Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation Ltd (Wilcannia Brickworks), Pulkurru Building Co Ltd - to pursue new markets for their products.

Under its Community Economic Development Programs the Department has provided financial assistance totalling \$282,840 for a range of projects.



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**Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Regional Development**