

The statement in the report "That the amount of RFR funds available has combined to remove the traditional incentives that ensure that only projects that provide the highest net benefits to the community are funded" can be negated by the unfairness of traditional methods. It was a common tradition for political parties to ensure that their supportive communities received the bulk of any funding. remember to term "Pork Barrelling" The RFR application process is extremely efficient in weeding out frivolous projects that have minimal net benefit.

Use of RFR for regional projects is accepted as important for the regions and state, however some RFR funds should remain available for local rural projects which can be of major benefit to mid/small size rural communities. Rural Local Governments are in the best position to determine best net value for their particular communities. It is recognised that the State government is struggling to provide the necessary infrastructure in the larger metropolitan areas for the expected population increase. How much more difficult will it be if people from rural communities leave the bush and move to the cities to access the facilities? Reinstatement of the CLGF fund to rural Local Governments will reduce the surplus of funds.

If, as stated in the report, the amount of GST revenue to WA has decreased due to RFR, then the State Government should be more effective and aggressive in its approach to the Commonwealth Government to access a greater share of GST and not attack the small target of rural communities by reducing the level of RFR funding to those rural communities.

Instead of considering abolishing the RFR, improve the funding application process to ensure that both regional and local projects are of a high net value to the region, state or local community as determined by the primary beneficiaries of the projects. For Example; Allow competent assessors to travel to rural areas and meet and discuss proposed projects with Local Governments and local communities and not just base funding recommendations on the written application by officers based in the Metro area..

Rural community members vote, pay taxes and are just as important to Western Australia as metro residents. They deserve a fair go and RFR provides that..

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