

It is difficult to provide a summarised version of all the issues local governments (LG's) would like to raise with the protocol for the Royalties for Regions Scheme (R4R), in particular dealing with the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF), but I will provide a few concerns that have arisen over the most recent decision not to support projects submitted for 2012/13 funding.

Attached is a document outlining the response from the Department of Regional Development (DRD) in December 2013 stating that two projects submitted by the Dryandra VROC (Wandering, Cuballing, Wickopin, Shire & Town of Narrogin) were unsuccessful for funding.

I draw attention to one of the major factors for the projects not being supported was due to the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) not fully supporting the projects even though both projects as I have highlighted in the attachment are identified, and acknowledged as such by the WDC, as key strategic areas within the Wheatbelt.

This is a very concerning statement being made by the WDC. Personally myself, and many other CEO's from other LG's, have questioned the purpose of the WDC. I ask the question, what is their purpose? Is the WDC in a better position than LG's to determine what are the major issues within our region? I don't believe so, however that is effectively the case from the attachment shown as the WDC prioritise the key infrastructure projects without taking into consideration the needs put forward by the LG. There is nothing the WDC can achieve that the LG's could not achieve from dealing directly with DRD, so the WDC, and I would suggest the same to be the case with the other development commissions, seems as a complete waste of resources chewing into the R4R funding which could otherwise be better spent putting projects on the ground in regional WA.

The other comment I would like to make is in relation to the reference to pricing/quotes being out of date for the industrial subdivision submission. Submissions for both projects were submitted in May 2013. The letter received from DRD was in December 2013, over 6 months after the submission was made. At best the pricing submitted on this basis will always be at least 6 months out of date. In this particular situation when you obtain pricing from Western Power as an example, all quotes are only valid for 3 months before a further quote will need to be obtained, so pricing for installing key utility infrastructure will always be out dated. A common sense approach would be to use pricing provided then LG's to work within these funding parameters with a contingency provided by the LG for possible cost over runs.

A further comment on the waste facility is that the purchase of land, DEC approvals, etc are all subject to LG's having the capacity to fund the project which was the purpose of making the Regional CLGF submission in the first place. This would have a perfect project to showcase LG's working together for a truly regional project with 10 Shires across the Wheatbelt/Great Southern working together to address waste issues in the country. Conversely, as a result of funding not being obtained the project is in doubt as many LG's are now baulking at the costs to establish the regional waste facility. It should be highlighted that the cost to establish a regional waste facility is an added burden to LG's but if some of these costs can be subsidised then these cost burdens incurred by the LG's is seen as acceptable from the environmental benefits that will be derived from the project.

R4R, in particular the CLGF, has been a great initiative for LG's. Granted there are probably some projects in the earlier days where LG's have undertaken projects where the monies could have been better allocated, but having said that the LG's have always worked within the parameters they have been given.

Just using Wandering as an example, we have been able to use individual CLGF funds to purchase staff housing, install footpaths and kerbing in the town site, upgrade the shire offices to allow for the provision of medical services and among other things provide recreational services (bowling green & skate park) and upgrade the caravan park facilities to attract tourism, which are all addressing the community needs as identified through our integrated planning process.

Then there is the fuel facility and transfer station that have been funded via the Regional component of the CLGF which have addressed a backlog of key infrastructure needs for the community which would not have been possible without the Royalties for Regions.

So yes LG's are very grateful for the R4R program, but its uncertainty makes it very difficult, bordering on impossible for LG's to effectively manage their long term financial plans and prioritise key infrastructure projects within the region.

I could sit down and talk for hours about the processes involved with the CLGF and would be happy to do so, but in summarising the R4R program, in particular the CLGF, has been a great initiative and would be an invaluable asset moving forward, however I currently see many inequities that could be addressed to make the R4R program even more valuable in the future.

Regards

Martin Whitely
Chief Executive Officer

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SHIRE OF WANDERING RECEIVED - 3 DEC 2013 FILE <u>121.9</u> ACTION COUNCIL _____ CEO _____ DCEO _____ WORKS _____ OTHER _____ DATE COMPLETED _____

Our ref: R01271-13, A3793686
Enquiries: Linda Leonard Phone 6552 2044

Mr Martin Whitely
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wandering
22 Watts Street
WANDERING WA 6308

Dear Mr Whitely

Country Local Government Fund – 2012-13 Group Funding Round

Thank you for your submission for funding in the 2012-13 CLGF Group funding round. The Department of Regional Development (DRD) would like to inform you on this occasion that your submission for Dryandra VROC Regional Waste Site – Stage 1 has been unsuccessful.

The project submitted in the business case was unsuccessful on the basis that:


- The Wheatbelt Development Commission not identifying this as a regional priority.
- There being a lack of justification of site choice.
- There is no indication of proposed infrastructure that would be associated with the project to enable it to achieve its objective as a waste facility.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between landholders is unsigned, thus no indication that land is secured or for sale.
- There is no evidence of preliminary discussions with Department of Environmental and Conservation (DEC) and Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) to determine that site is potentially able to be used for waste disposal.
- There is no evidence of security of leveraged funds.

The Shire of Wandering and the Dryandra VROC (Group) should continue to pursue other funding mechanisms through the Royalties for Regions program. I encourage the Group to continue to develop robust local plans and ensure that projects undertaken are aligned to the State Planning Strategy, Regional Infrastructure Planning frameworks and regional blueprints being developed by Regional Development Commissions.

Please refer to the pamphlet enclosed 'Aligned and integrated delivery of services to regional Western Australia' which outlines the integrated state planning and development framework for your information.

For further inquiries please contact Linda Leonard, Manager, Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development on telephone 08 6552 2044.

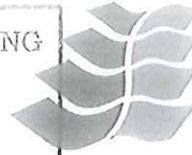
Yours sincerely


Paul Rosair
DIRECTOR GENERAL

28 November 2013



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Wheatbelt
Development
Commission

Martin Whitely
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wandering
22 Watts Street
WANDERING WA 6308

Dear Martin,

COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND GROUP 2012-13

Thank you for providing us with a copy of your business case proposal for the *Dryandra Regional Waste Site Stage 1*. We would also like to thank Dryandra Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) representatives for attending the Wheatbelt South Country Local Government Group and Regional Planning Update workshop held at Williams 28 August 2012. Dryandra's contribution from the workshop to create the *Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan Report 3 (2012)* is appreciated.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission acknowledges that funding is for Stage 1 of this project, the purchase of land for a regional waste site. The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) views this as a regional project in the context of the CLGF regional group criteria to *benefit multiple communities across local government or regional boundaries*. The project aligns with the Wheatbelt Strategic Framework Vibrant Economy strategic focus objective 4 *Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in*. In addition, the project complies with strategic objective 1 of the State's Waste Strategy, *Creating the Right Environment*.

Dryandra Regional Waste Site Stage 1 is one of five projects to be submitted by the Dryandra VROC Group. While the WDC has actively encouraged local government groups to work collaboratively on one or two region-wide projects, given the number of projects to be submitted it is difficult to determine which project is a priority for the Dryandra VROC Group. For the Wheatbelt, waste management was not identified as a priority focus area as founded in the *Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan Report 3*, however waste management is identified as an area to watch.

If you require further information please contact Pip Gooding, Regional Manager Wheatbelt Development Commission P: (08) 9881 5888 / E: pip.gooding@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

WENDY NEWMAN
Chief Executive Officer
24 May 2013

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Mr Martin Whitely
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wandering
22 Watts Street
Wandering WA 6308

Dear Mr Whitely

Country Local Government Fund – 2012-13 Group Funding Round

Thank you for your submission for funding in the 2012-13 CLGF Group funding round. The Department of Regional Development (DRD) would like to inform you on this occasion that your submission for Wandering Industrial Land Subdivision has been unsuccessful.

The project was unsuccessful on the basis that:

- The projects was not fully supported from Wheatbelt Development Commission
- Adequate feedback was not received from Shire on confirmation of ownership of the land, validation of discrepancies of funding and clarification of milestones
- Marketing and promotion were not eligible activities under CLGF
- Quotes were dated

The Shire of Wandering and the Dryandra VROC (Group) should continue to pursue other funding mechanisms through the Royalties for Regions program. I encourage the Group to continue to develop robust local plans and ensure that projects undertaken are aligned to the State Planning Strategy, Regional Infrastructure Planning frameworks and regional blueprints being developed by Regional Development Commissions.

Please refer to the pamphlet enclosed 'Aligned and integrated delivery of services to regional Western Australia' which outlines the integrated state planning and development framework for your information.

For further inquiries please contact Linda Leonard, Manager, Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development on telephone 08 6552 2044.

Yours sincerely

for Paul Rosair
DIRECTOR GENERAL

28 November 2013



12.1.9
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Martin Whitely
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wandering
22 Watts Street
WANDERING WA 6308

Dear Martin,

COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND GROUP 2012-13

Thank you for providing us with a copy of your business case proposal for the *Industrial Land Sub Division-Wandering*. We would also like to thank Dryandra Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) representatives for attending the Wheatbelt South Country Local Government Group and Regional Planning Update workshops that were held at Williams 28 August 2012. Dryandra's contribution from the workshops to create the *Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan Report 3 (2012)* is appreciated.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission acknowledges that funding for this project is for the development of 5 industrial lots to complement the existing industrial lots in Wandering. *The project aligns with the Wheatbelt Strategic Framework Vibrant Economy strategic focus objective 4 Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in. For the Wheatbelt 'Barriers to Land Development' is identified as a priority focus for the WDC in the Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan Report 3.*

The *Industrial Land Sub Division-Wandering* is one of five projects to be submitted by the Dryandra VROC Group. The Wheatbelt Development Commission has actively encouraged local government groups to work collaboratively on one or two region-wide projects. Given the number of projects submitted and the localised nature of this project, it is difficult to determine which project is a priority for the Dryandra VROC Group.

If you require further information please contact Pip Gooding, Regional Manager Wheatbelt Development Commission P: (08) 9881 5888 / E: pip.gooding@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

✓
WENDY NEWMAN
Chief Executive Officer
24 May 2013

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