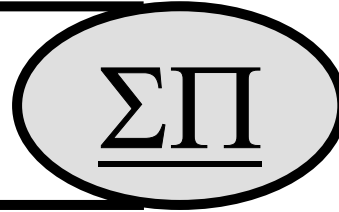

SMITHSON PLANNING

364 Middleton Road Albany WA 6330

PO Box 5377 Albany WA 6332

Tel / Ans / Fax : (08) 9842 9841 Mob : 0419 556 444



Our Ref : W98-0036

Your Ref :

The Secretary
Senate Employment, Education and Training References Committee
S1.61 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

14 April 1998

Dear Sir / Madam

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT INQUIRY

I refer to the advertisement appearing in The Weekend Australian calling for submissions in respect to this matter.

I believe I could write a lengthy thesis on Part 1 of the stated terms of reference; however, I would suggest that the matter could be succinctly expressed in the terms of 'Local Politics' and "Small Town Syndrome".

I would like to address Part 2 of the stated terms of reference, and suggest that :

- ❖ the Government (Federal, State & Local) has assumed a decision-making role based on electoral support
- ❖ rather than a facilitation role based on supporting community planning for the future, and
- ❖ the community has forfeited self-determination to the government as a function of minority democracy.

Each of these matters would be addressed by putting the power back in the hands of the community by linking financial investment from taxation at any government level to the achievement of performance management indicators linked to **E**conomy, **S**ociology and **E**cology (in a suitable **P**olitical framework).

Overseas experience may be relevant; however, there is a depth of talent in Australia if anyone bothered to look.

'Big picture' planning can be undertaken in a meaningful manner with community participation, providing the process is open, honest and accountable, because the public are not stupid and commonsense will prevail.

Please find attached copy of :

- ❖ Rainbow 2000[®] – a Regional Planning Strategy for Albany & the Great Southern (the Development Plan)
- ❖ Albany 2001 Re-enactment – a Major Event (the Marketing Plan).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and if you require further assistance please call.

Yours faithfully,
SMITHSON PLANNING

NEIL R. SMITHSON

Managing Director
MRAPI, MEIAust