

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Regional Development Australia Committees

The Commonwealth and NSW Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the new joint Commonwealth-State regional development arrangement under Regional Development Australia RDA. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) laid the foundation for the new relationship between the Australian and NSW governments. Both Governments have advised that Local Government will also have a strong role in Regional Development Australia (RDA).

Membership is being sought from a wide cross section of community members who can demonstrate a commitment to the future of their regions. **Local Government** will also be represented on the new committees. The new Regional Development Australia committees replace the 14 NSW Area Consultative Committees (ACCs) and the State's 13 Regional Development Boards (RDBs). The members of these committees have been consulted and are contributing to the implementation of the new arrangements.

The NSW signatory, Minister for Regional Development, the Hon. Phillip Costa, said the next step would be to fill the new RDA committees with people committed to the development of their regions and with the ability to strongly represent the grass-roots views from their regions. Existing funding for the current boards (Commonwealth and NSW) will transfer to the new Regional Development Australia. The Regional Development Australia committees will help all government agencies to focus their work on the priorities identified by each community. I would urge Community minded people within our Shire to consider nominating. Closing date for applications is 27 March 2009.

Festivals Australia funds

Festivals Australia is an Australian Government program which funds Australian regional and community festivals to present quality cultural projects. Funding is available to add a new or special sort of cultural activity. To be eligible for funding, an activity must not have been previously presented and must be one that could not be afforded without the funding.

The closing date for next funding round is **15 July 2009** for projects starting **after 1 January 2010**. There are two funding rounds a year. They are advertised nationally, with closing dates of 15 February for projects starting after 1 July and 15 July for projects starting after 1 January. If the notional closing date falls on a weekend, the actual closing date will be the following Monday.

Applications must be made by organisations that manage regular festivals. Eligible organisations include local governments and councils, cultural organisations and regional arts councils that manage festivals. For more information visit www.arts.gov.au/arts or phone 02 6275 9554

Infrastructure Projects.

The Federal Government has made some announcements of funding to local councils under the \$800 million Community Infrastructure Program. This is the program that Council received \$271,000.

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese, said that more than 3,600 projects had been submitted nationally under the first round of the Community Infrastructure Program and more council projects would be announced as they are approved shortly.

As soon as Council is advised if the Community Projects we submitted have been successful, the Organisations will be notified. A will also include a further report in "Happenings" when the information comes to hand.

18 March 2009