



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Sandy Macdonald

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence
Deputy Leader of The Nationals in the Senate

MORE THAN \$38,000 TO PROMOTE THE NEW ENGLAND FILM INDUSTRY

NSW Nationals Senator Sandy Macdonald, today announced Australian Government *Regional Partnerships* program funding of more than \$38,000 towards encouraging and cultivating the local film industry in the New England - North West region.

“The Australian Government funds will assist Arts North West and the Northern Inland Regional Development Board to cover consultancy, marketing and promotion costs to develop a set of information resources for the region,” Senator Macdonald said.

“These resources include a database of locations, images, services and accommodation references that will be used to promote the region’s filming opportunities and infrastructure to the film industry,” he said.

“The New England North West region boasts a number of picturesque natural attractions, heritage listed national parks and unique streetscapes that are very apt for film making and documentaries.”

“This project will raise the profile of the area and it’s attributes within the film industry, boosting the region’s economy through an increase in projects undertaken in the area, along with tourism to the area,” he said.

Senator Macdonald congratulated the local community for working together to access *Regional Partnerships* program funding, particularly the New England North West Area Consultative Committee for helping to bring the project to fruition

“I would also like to acknowledge the financial support provided by the Walcha Council, the Uralla Shire Council, the Tamworth Regional Council, the New South Wales Department of State and Regional Development, the Narrabri Shire Council, the Moree Plains Shire Council, the Liverpool Plains Shire Council, the Inverell Shire Council, the Gwydir Shire Council, the Gunnedah Shire Council and the Glen Innes Severn Council,” he said.

The *Regional Partnerships* program continues the Australian Government’s approach of working with local communities to support their ideas. A total of \$270.5 million is available under the *Regional Partnerships* program from 2006–07 to 2009–10.

Senator Macdonald said the *Regional Partnerships* program would deliver benefits to communities well into the future, not only from program funding, but from the higher levels of economic activity and improved social amenity which the program was generating.

Communities should contact the New England North West Area Consultative Committee on 1800 240 086 if they wish to seek funding through the *Regional Partnerships* program.

Ends...Thursday 14 December 2006

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