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Submission Number: 52
Date Received: 05/12/2012

Diamantina Shire Council

Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

jsclg@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Worthington

SUBMISSION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I write to provide Council's support for constitutional recognition and reinforce the following:

- Council passed a resolution at its Ordinary Meeting in March, 2011 (Minute Number: 2011.2.20) endorsing in the affirmative for financial recognition.
- Council is fully supportive of Federal Governments having the capacity to provide local governments with direct funding where it is in the interest of the nation.
- Council relies on funding initiatives such as Roads to Recovery to provide economic stability and long term employment within the Shire.
- Council conclusively supports an amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution so that it reads: "Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory".
- Council is of the belief that bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success.
- Council supports the scheduling of a referendum when it is to have the best chance of success.
- Council collaboratively agrees to a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign to inform the public about the Constitution, how to change it, and about the question being asked before the referendum, as it is Council's belief that an informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote, which is based on facts rather than misinformation.

Most importantly, Council strongly supports the formal recognition of local government as a third tier of government given its widespread demonstrated effectiveness across the nation for over a century.

If you would like to discuss this submission further, please contact me direct on 07 4746 1202.

Yours faithfully

Scott Mason
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5 December, 2012

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Scott Mason

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

SR:305.2012

YOUR REFERENCE:

SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPING THE OUTBACK