

To The Select Committee on Federation

From Dr Gabriel Donleavy

Dated 19 August 2010

I have read the material on the website including the other submissions. I would ask the Committee to consider some root questions not hitherto addressed but fundamental to the committee's work.

1. Does a country with such a small population benefit from having a State level of government or are the benefits heavily outweighed by the costs and disadvantages? The emotional affiliation people feel to their state can be largely channelled through sporting structures and do not need government for this purpose.
2. The main division in the Australian society and economy is often perceived to be between city and region. Cities have their own tier of government reasonably closely engaged with residents but hampered more often than not, by state actions and omissions. The committee could address how best to serve the regions effectively and sensitively by a federal regional council with divisions around such major regional towns as Townsville, Rockhampton, Bathurst, Dubbo, Broome etc. Co-ordination federally would be quite probably better for the stakeholders than a fragmented, outdated and expensively wasteful state tier of government.

Thank you for you attention to this brief submission.