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Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional
Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2601
JSCLG@APH.GOV.AU

Dear Mr Worthington

UPDATE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

Ref: sb/KL/SF867

Tamworth Regional Council resolved on the 15 January 2013 to present a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition in support the proposal for financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held 22 March 2011, Council resolved "to declare its support for financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund Local Government directly and also for inclusion of Local Government in any new Preamble to the Constitution, if one is proposed, and call on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition."

Council not only supports financial recognition but recognises the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is the national interest.

Tamworth Regional Council needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue and also recognises that bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success.

Council supports the referendum being held at a time which maximise its chance of success and that the amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution to read:

"Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory."

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 February 2012, Council also resolved "to allocate \$8,828 in the 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2014/2015 budgets to fund the National Advertising Campaign" and Council supports all publicly funded national education and awareness campaigns to inform the public about the Constitution, how to change it, and about the question being asked before the referendum. An informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote, which is based on facts rather than misinformation.

All correspondence should be addressed to the General Manager:

Telephone: 6767 5555

PO Box 555 (DX 6125)

trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Facsimile: 6767 5499

Tamworth NSW 2340

www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au

Council wishes to thank you for your time in consideration of the matters raised in this submission.

Yours faithfully

Paul Bennett
General Manager

Contact: Karen Litchfield (02) 6767 5514

6 February 2013