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14 February 2013

Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

Re: Submission on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in support of the recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution.

Warringah Council at its meeting of 12 February 2013 resolved that:

- Council supports financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution, by amending Section 96, allowing Parliament to grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory.
- Council supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest. Though local government has long been delivering such national outcomes, only some initiatives have been adequately funded such as the Roads to Recovery program. Chronic under-funding has left councils around Australia facing backlogs in repairing ageing infrastructure.
- Council urges the Federal government to express bi-partisan support for a referendum on this matter, to help ensure its success
- Council supports a publicly-funded national education and awareness campaign to inform the public about the need for changes to the Constitution, to maximise the referendum's chance of success.

We recognise that a referendum is unlikely to succeed without bi-partisan support from around Australia, so I am also writing to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and our local MPs to urge for their support for this Constitutional recognition.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Regan
Mayor of Warringah

Enquiries: Michael McDermid,