



COOLOOLA SHIRE COUNCIL

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Our Ref: NJB00061

Your Ref:

25 July 2002

The Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

House of representatives Standing Committee on
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

Submission No: 110

Date Received: 29/7/02

Secretary: Bardell

Dear Sir,

RE: Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a Submission to the Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government.

The Council notes that the Local Government Association of Queensland is preparing a detailed Submission on behalf of member Councils to your Inquiry, to which this Council has provided input.

The Council notes that this Council has also provided input in the Submission to your Inquiry for the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils in Queensland.

Having said the above, this Council would like to submit the attached list of categories which have been identified for further examination by your Inquiry.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

R.A. FAULKNER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COOLOOLA SHIRE COUNCIL
COST SHIFTING INQUIRY

24 July 2002

Categories Identified:

Direct Cost Shift:

- (a) Use of Seeding Grants in Social Equity Area and other areas ie Youth Development officer/Community Development Officer for 3 years
- level of expectation is raised and then withdraw Grants subsidy.
- (b) Subsidy for Qualified Librarians.
No increase for book purchases subsidy in recent years.
Expanding role to community leisure centre in the electronic world.
Resource centre for materials only available on the Internet.
- (c) Complexity of Unemployment Programs, Supervision and Training requirements including Workplace Health & Safety.
- (d) Control of Vending on Main Roads.
- (e) Local Cost and People Impact of Administering Enterprise Bargaining vs centralised wage fixing.
- (f) IDAS/IPA Reforms – coordinating response from all referral agencies ie MRD, EPA & DNRM.
- (g) Reduction in FAG's.
- (h) Corporate Governance/Asset Management Requirements.
- (i) Maintenance of Fire Hydrants.
- (j) Inspection of Budget Accommodation for fire safety compliance.
Inspection of Residential tenancies for statutory compliance.
- (k) Withdrawal of State Government Offices/Resources in Regional Centres.
- (l) Childcare Centre Assessment - Building works.
- (m) Collection of Fire Levies.
- (n) Lands Protection Act – more plants declared.
Requirement for Pest Management Plans.
- (o) Maintenance of Crown lands around townships because of local requests for a response.
- (p) Charges for GIS/Cadastral Mapping Services.

Indirect Cost Shift:

- (a) Effect of new Legislation:
 - (i) Vegetation Management Legislation
 - (ii) NCP Reforms – Water Pricing
 - (iii) Disaster Mitigation Planning Requirements
 - (iv) EPA Legislation and delegations to Local Government ie Noise Control, Water to be pumped from a creek, establishment of a new refuse tip, solid waste disposal.
 - (v) Advice to Public – ex IDAS re Acid Sulphate Soils, Dams, Bores etc.
 - (vi) Qld Heritage Act
 - (vii) Water Act (new legislation impact)
 - (viii) New restricted dogs legislation/implementation

- (b) Effect of Government Policies:
 - (i) DNRM – No longer grant USL for Council operational purposes – now charge for operational land for sewerage treatment works, refuse tips, Libraries etc.
 - (ii) Retrofitting Traffic Management to Schools including parking (partly subsidised)
 - (iii) (a) Counter Disaster – SES now assist Police with traffic control;
(b) Control and management of animal disease outbreak
 - (iv) Cost of participation in Voluntary Roads Alliances
 - (v) Native Title and Cultural Heritage

- (c) Trend to Corporatised Entities
 - (i) Water Licence Pricing (SunWater)
 - (ii) Decline in attention to CSOs eg maintenance of Borumba Dam Facilities
 - (iii) Electricity – no free scheme designs

- (d) Reduction in State Government Oversight -
 - (1) Timeliness in getting advice out of State Government Agencies.
 - (2) Oversight as exercised formally on water supply and sewerage functions now not available.

- (e) Increased reliance on volunteer labour to provide levels of service ie Friends of Library and Friends of Art Gallery, School P&C's, Adopt a Park etc.

- (f) Council endeavouring to meet increasing requests for financial assistance from the community which we all recognise is hurting.