

26 July, 2002

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

Dear Sir/Madam

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COST SHIFTING

The following information is submitted in response to the invitation to make submissions in respect of the abovementioned Inquiry, particularly in relation to the examination of Point 4 of the Terms of Reference, namely-

Local Government expenditure and the impact on local government's financial capacity as a result of changes in the powers, functions and responsibilities between state and local governments.

This is a summary of some of the various areas of Council operations which we believe have been the subject of cost shifting by other areas of government. We have not attempted to specify which level of government has shifted the costs as we believe that the examination of the impact of the shifting of costs onto local government cannot be meaningfully restricted to one level.

In general, we concur with the stance of the Municipal Association of Victoria on this point.

Matters that we believe should be included in this Inquiry are –

1. *Destruction of injured wildlife*
2. *Enforcement of mass limits imposed by VicRoads*
3. *Corella control program*
4. *Stock control on declared roads*
5. *Emergency response on declared roads*
6. *Building control enforcement*
7. *Weed management*
8. *BOOT Schemes*
9. *Noise enforcement*

- 10. Electrical wiring inspections*
- 11. Fire Prevention*
- 12. Levies on refuse disposal*
- 13. Litter enforcement*
- 14. Headlice control*
- 15. Library services*
- 16. HACC funding*
- 17. Maternal and Child Health*
- 18. Child Care*
- 19. Baby Capsule Program*
- 20. Enforcement of safety requirements of contractors*

A submission outlining our detailed concerns on the above matters is being finalised and will be forwarded to you shortly.

Yours sincerely

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