



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

Submission No: 171

Date Received: 26/7/02

Secretary: Cardell

26 July 2002

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

Dear Secretary

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COST SHIFTING

I refer to the above mentioned inquiry and advise that Central Highlands Council will be forwarding a submission and would appreciate the opportunity to address the Committee during it's hearings in Tasmania.

Council have been concerned for some time now at the gradual but even increasing devolution of the Community and regulatory role of State Government to Local Government with no adequate funding to enable the activity to be conducted.

In most cases as this has been a change in legislation and Local Government is left with little choice but to undertake the activity at the expense of the ratepayer.

Council's concerns are centred around, but not restricted to the following:

1. Provision of Medical Services fully funded by Council.
2. Provisions of Environmental Health regulatory functions.
3. Non payment of Council rates by GBEs
4. National Road Transport Commission funding – failure to index the CPI (Following removal of road toll payments)
5. Failure to pass on NCP and GST payments despite the fact that Local Government is forced to comply when in a number of cases the State Government does not.
6. Administration of the Public Health Act
7. Administration of the Libraries Act – Local Government is legislated to pay a levy regardless of whether a library is provided in the region.
8. Failure of State to increase road funding to ensure a better result from Roads to Recovery program and in some cases, withdrawal of previously supplies services (eg: line marking)

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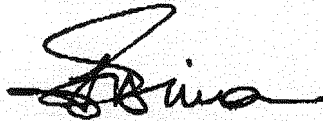
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9. Fire Levy collection – requirement for Local Government to pay fire levy in advance, regardless of level of collection of rates, thereby carrying any bad debts on behalf of the State.

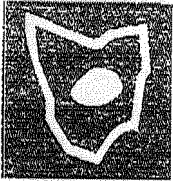
Council's General Manager met briefly with Federal Local Government Minister, Wilson Tuckey in Hobart yesterday and was advised to submit this advance document to the Committee, to enable enough time to prepare a more comprehensive response, following community consultation.

The opportunity to comment to the Committee is appreciated and a more detailed submission will follow.

Yours faithfully



Trevor Berriman
General Manager



FAX

To: THE CLERK ASSISTANT - (COMMITTEES)

Attention:

Fax No.: 02 6277 4435 Pages: 3

From: TREVOR BERRIMAN

Department: Administration & Community Services

Date: 26.7.02

Subject: SUBMISSION

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Information Only

COMMENTS

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED INITIAL
COMMENTS ON THE INQUIRY INTO
COST SHIFTING

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