



# LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

*Preserving the Past, Enhancing the Future*

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Date Received: 23/1/2013

Secretary: [Signature]

23 January 2013

Mr Glenn Worthington  
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Worthington,

## **Constitutional Recognition of Local Government**

I refer to the Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government that has been established recently.

Leeton Shire Council at its Ordinary Meeting of Council on the 19 December 2012 resolved to make a submission to the committee stating that Leeton Shire Council:

- Supports financial recognition of Local Government which was previously passed by Council resolution at the Council Meeting of 23 February 2011
- Supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest
- Believes Constitutional Recognition is extremely important to Council as it provides certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue
- Supports an amendment to Section 96 of the constitution so it reads "Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory"
- Supports a bi-partisan approach as an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success
- Supports the referendum being held at a time which maximizes its chances of success
- Supports a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign 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.

Please feel free to call me on  
relation to the above.

if any further information is required in

Yours faithfully

**John Batchelor**  
**General Manager**