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21 February 2013

Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee
On The Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
P. O. Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Worthington

Re: Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

I am writing on behalf of Council to advise you of its support in regard to gaining Local Government Recognition within the Constitution. Council resolved at its meeting held on 20 December 2012 'that Council make a formal submission and support the expert panels preferred amendment to section 96 of the Constitution to read: "That Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State or to any Local Government body formed by state and territory legislation on such terms and conditions as the Parliament sees fit.'

Council has supported the Australian Local Government Association in its efforts to represent the industry on a national basis to advocate for this change and believes it is an important one. This 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. Council also believes that bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success and recognises the challenges faced in trying to achieve this.

Council 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. It is essential that an informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote which is based on facts rather than misinformation.

Yours sincerely

PETER BEAN
GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES