



CITY of PERTH

**Submission Number: 95**  
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13 December 2012

Mr Glenn Worthington  
Secretary  
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 Governments**

I understand that Parliament has established a Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government with a requirement for the Committee to provide an interim report in December 2012 and a final report by the end of February 2013.

The Council of the City of Perth has previously considered the issue of constitutional recognition of local governments at its meeting held on 28 June 2011 and established the following position:

*"That the Council:-*

- 1. declares its support for financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund local governments directly;*
- 2. supports the inclusion of local government in any new preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed; and*
- 3. calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition."*

Whilst the Council's resolution expresses a desire for a referendum on changes to the Constitution to occur by 2013, clearly this timeframe is unachievable. The Council would support a referendum being held at a time most likely to maximise its chances of success and notes that in order to achieve such success, it is essential that any proposed changes to the Constitution enjoy bipartisan support.

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Additionally, the City is of the view that a referendum on Constitutional recognition of local government should be supported by a publicly funded education campaign intended to inform the community about the purpose of the referendum and the prerequisites that must exist in order to amend the Constitution.

Should you have any queries regarding the City of Perth's position in relation to constitutional recognition of local governments please contact the

Yours sincerely

**GARY STEVENSON PSM  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**