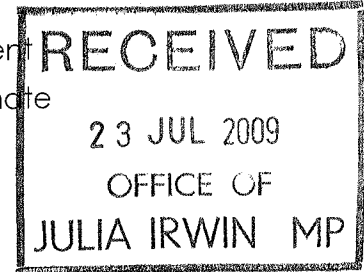




Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Acting Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate



Reference: 04488-2009

Mrs Julia Irwin MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

14 JUL 2009

Dear Mrs Irwin

Thank you for your letter dated 9 June 2009 about a petition submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions regarding a stock and domestic water supply scheme for the Cosgrove and Pine Lodge districts.

It is the responsibility of councils to ensure adequate infrastructure and service provision is equitably distributed throughout their local government area. To assist councils, the Australian Government has provided significant funding to local governments.

The Government is now providing record funding of over \$1 billion for local government through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP). The City of Greater Shepparton has already been allocated \$1.348 million for local infrastructure under this Program. This was new funding over and above the funding the council receives from the Government through Financial Assistant Grants and Roads to Recovery.

On 25 June 2009, the Government announced an additional \$220 million investment in local community and environmental infrastructure through the RLCIP, with the next round expected to commence at the end of 2009.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN CONROY