



## Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA



Mr David Hawker MP  
Chairman  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Economics, Finance and Public Administration  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hawker

Thank you for your letter of 24 November 2003 providing a copy of your Committee's report, *Rates and Taxes: A Fair Share for Responsible Local Government*.

As you would appreciate, the Australian Capital Territory self-government legislation reflects a city/state model encompassing both state and local government roles, making it difficult for my Government to embrace a number of the Report's findings.

However, I was particularly interested in your chapter on capacity building in our regions. The ACT is already making a concerted effort to engage collaboratively and cooperatively with the Australian Capital Region councils on a number of levels. The Australian Capital Regional Leaders Forum is a particularly good example of an information sharing body established within our region. Much work is under way to harmonise planning strategies, tourism promotion and development, leadership training and communications links. The ACT is also engaging with the NSW Government to consider more appropriate formal arrangements to further cooperative governance within our region.

I thank you for drawing your report to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA  
Chief Minister

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ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433