

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

City of Cultural Diversity

Our Reference:

The Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Economics,
Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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House of representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration	
Submission No:	250
Date Received:	20/8/02
Secretary:	<i>Cudell</i>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government.

We have provided a significant level of input to the submission provided by the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and their submission genuinely reflects our position on matters arising from your terms of reference.

Of particular concern to our Council has been the broad range of areas of responsibility that have been passed onto local government without adequate funding, at a time when State policies on rate pegging have restricted our capacity to resource programs and meet community expectations.

State charges have also increased at rates over and above allowed Council rate increases, and State financial contributions to many joint programs have significantly diminished over time.

Additionally, we have limited opportunities to raise revenues through other avenues to provide adequate levels of service delivery to meet increasing community expectations.

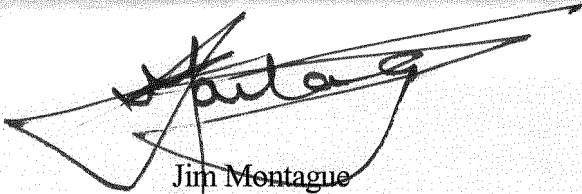
Cost shifting from State Government has also severely undermined the real value of grants provided by the Federal Government which have generally kept pace with trends in costs.

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To address this issue, urgent consideration should be given to developing appropriate and effective Commonwealth-State financial relations to protect local government's share of the total tax burden on the community. This position is fully outlined in the SSROC submission and I commend it to you.

If I can be of any further assistance, please contact my office on 9789 9447.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Montague', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Jim Montague
GENERAL MANAGER

9 August 2002