



Naracoorte Lucindale Council

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Mr Glenn Worthington
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
Department of House of Representatives
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Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
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Dear Mr Worthington

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council represents a community of 8,116 people and is located in the centre of the Limestone Coast region (South East of South Australia) approximately 300 kilometres from Adelaide and 450 kilometres from Melbourne.

At its meetings held on 27 November 2012 and 17 May 2011, Council formally resolved to support financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

The Naracoorte Lucindale 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
- supports an amendment to section 96 of the Constitution so that it would read: *"Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory"*
- supports the referendum being held at a time which maximises its chance of success
- 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
- is of the opinion that bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success
- needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue



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In 2001 the Australian Government introduced the Roads to Recovery Program to allow the Commonwealth to directly fund local government road works. In Naracoorte Lucindale's case the latest R2R round is providing \$1,762,810 from 2009/10 until 2013/14.

In 2011-2012 with these funds Council reconstructed and sealed an additional 4.2kms of Boddingtons West Road. This year to provide a safe, consistent and fit for purpose transport route R2R funds are being used to resheet an additional 5.9kms of Moyhall Rd, a major sub-arterial road to the south of Naracoorte. In the context of a small rural council such as Naracoorte Lucindale this funding is vitally important and Council has factored these ongoing works into its workforce planning.

Following the Global Financial Crisis in 2008 the Australian Government directly provided Naracoorte Lucindale Council \$127,000 and \$333,000 through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP). These funds were used to improve and provide much needed community infrastructure. For example the \$127,000 grant was used for critical drainage and flood infrastructure in Naracoorte.

The \$333,000 grant was used to upgrade the Community and Migrant Resource Centre, undertake a streetscape redevelopment, further develop a community garden, upgrade a playground, refurbish a town hall and improve recreational facilities. Without direct Commonwealth funding Council would not have been in a position to fund any of these projects in the foreseeable future.

Council is a member of the Local Government Association of SA and supports its work and the work of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in representing Local Government on this issue.

Council believes that the suggested changes to the Constitution being sought by local government are simply a mechanism to legalise the system which already exists and to ensure local government remains a viable part of the Australian government system.

Yours sincerely

MAYOR ERIKA VICKERY
Naracoorte Lucindale Council

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