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Date: 10 December 2012

Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

BY EMAIL: jsclg@aph.gov.au

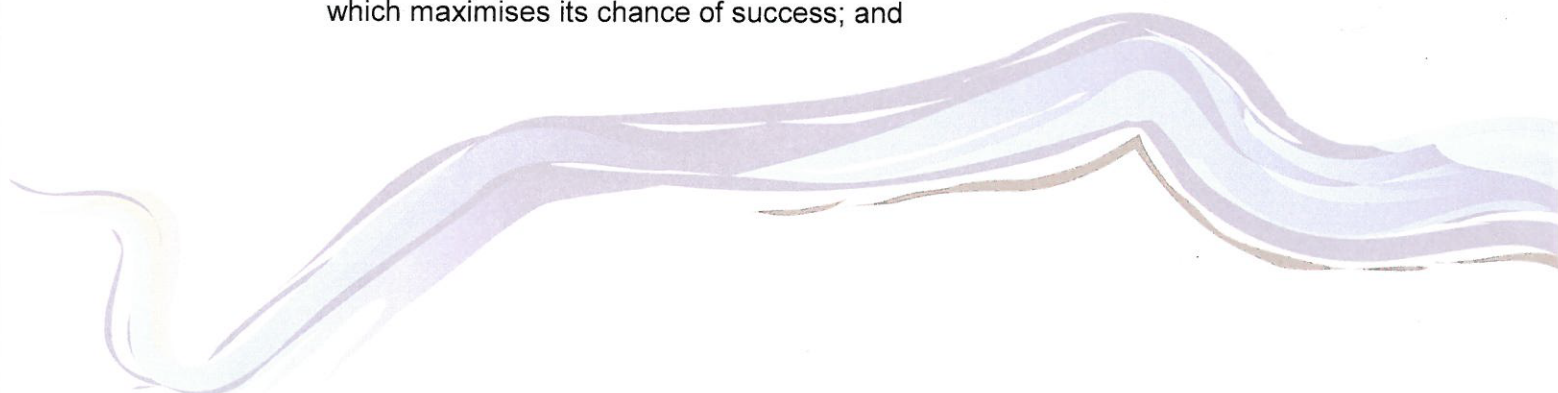
Dear Mr. Worthington

Re: Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

We refer to the recent establishment of a Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

The Goondiwindi Regional Council wishes to make the following submission with respect to the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government:

- Goondiwindi Regional Council supports financial recognition;
- Goondiwindi Regional 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;
- Our Council needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue;
- Goondiwindi Regional Council 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";
- Our Council considers that bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success;
- Goondiwindi Regional Council supports the referendum being held at a time which maximises its chance of success; and



- This Council 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. An informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote, which is based on facts rather than misinformation.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. Please contact the writer should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Mr Carl Manton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER