

Shire of  
**DUNDAS**

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ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE  
ADDRESSED TO THE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BGW: KB  
M/16

House of representatives Standing Committee on  
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

Submission No: .....

Date Received: 30/7/02

Secretary: *Burdell*

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

The Shire of Dundas submits the following as issues of impact on our administration and finance due to cost shifting and devolution of responsibility to Local Government of Traditional Government functions.

We will present these in a dot form so the submission will be concise.

- **Medical**

Council is subsidizing a doctor for Norseman for the past 12 months, which has cost \$85000 operating cost for the Clinic.

Additional costs incurred for capital upgrade were:

\$10000	Doctor House upgrade
\$13000	Equipment for Medical Clinic
\$23000	For Motor Vehicle

Council has invested in infrastructures:

\$100.000	In Doctors housing
\$170.000	In the Clinic

For the previous 10 years the town had a full time private Doctor.

In the past 12 months we have had 6 locums which is unsettling and costly.

- **Mining**

Norseman is suffering from the drive in drive out practice of miners employed by the mining industry.

In one mine alone:

18 miners live in Esperance  
14 miners live in Kalgoorlie  
9 miners live in Norseman

There is a big expansion in the mining activities in the area since Croesus Mining purchased all Western Mining Company interests in January 2002.

The town unfortunately has not seen much benefit from the increased mining activity or the additional employment.

Council has approached the mining companies in an endeavour to have them encourage their employees to live in Norseman and we will see if there is an impact from this in the future.

Even with population decline Council must continue to maintain at a big cost all the facilities required by our residents even though they are under utilised.

The incident of drive in drive out miners has a dramatic effect upon our Grant Commission and Road Funding as they are based on population statistics.

The Local Authorities where these workers have their permanent residential address attract the Federal Government Grants whereas the Shire providing the service is disadvantaged.

- **Waste Disposal**

Government regulations in regards to waste disposal place a burden our small Councils that do not have the resources to man the disposal site.

Landfill disposal is an expensive operation but is still the most effective waste control in small communities.

- **Eyre Highway Health Inspections**

The State Department of Health has directed the Dundas Shire Council undertake health inspections of the roadhouses on a regular basis.

This strains Council resources and involves covering 720 km of Highway to service 6 roadhouses at exhorbitant cost per service.

- **Libraries**

The state library has converted all its operations and transactions to electronic medium.

This has forced council to purchase \$7000 worth of computer system so that we can update for book exchanges and book handling.

On top of this initial up front cost is a new \$1000 to \$2000 p.a computer system maintenance cost that Council did not previously incur.

This change was compulsory as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002.

- **Coastal Management**

Council is now addressing the issue of Coastal Management of some 150 km of coast west of Eucla 700 km from Norseman.

State Department of Planning and Infrastructure is pressing Council to prepare a Coastal Management Plan.

The Department will provide a grant for the consultant to prepare the plan.

Once in place Council will be obligated to undertake the functions identified in the Coastal Management Plan at a cost not previously on our agenda or budget.

- **Airfield**

Council now has control of the local Airstrip.

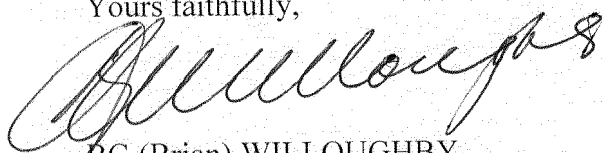
Council pays the SES to light the strip at night for the flying Doctor Services at \$80 per callout.

Council also has to maintain the strip and provide air socks for wind direction identification.

Cost for 2001/2002 was \$5000.

Although a brief resume the above items indicate some of the costs associated with a small rural local authority.

Yours faithfully,



BG (Brian) WILLOUGHBY  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Monday, July 29, 2002