

From: Andrew Solomon [andrew_gordon_solomon@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, 9 June 2002 11:21 PM
To: EFPA.Reps@aph.gov.au
Subject: Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in relation to the Inquiry into Cost Shifting to Local Government.

The statistics below show the breakdown of the 172 Councils in NSW against a range of population sizes. As you can see there is a huge disparity in the populations of Councils across NSW ranging from less than 2,000 to more than 200,000. For many Councils with small populations the provision of the most basic services is already a major difficulty.

With 44 Councils in NSW having a population less than 5,000 and 74 less than 10,000 it would seem ludicrous to suggest that this level of government could take on further service delivery eg; education or policing. The economies of scale and the infrastructure to support such service delivery are not possible with populations of that magnitude.

On the other hand if we were to dissolve the current States and Territories and all Councils across Australia and create 20 to 25 large regional governments instead, it would then be possible to have just two tiers of governments with the second tier much more in tune with their constituents and having population sizes large enough to effectively deliver all necessary services including education and policing.

Population size	x	Number of Councils in NSW
Less than 3000	x	18
3000 to 4,999	x	26
5,000 to 9,999	x	30
10,000 to 19,999	x	22
20,000 to 39,999	x	25
40,000 to 99,999	x	32
100,000 to 199,000	x	17
Greater than 200,000	x	2

Yours sincerely
Andrew Solomon
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