

In Reply Please

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19 July 2002

The House of Representatives Economics Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chairman

Federal Enquiry into Local Government and Cost Shifting

Attached for the consideration of your Committee is a report to Council's Environment Planning & Administrative Services Committee held on 16 July 2002, which forms the basis of council's submission to the Enquiry.

Council's submission references constitutional recognition of local government; full passage of financial assistance grants, pension rebates and NCP payments to local government; removal of unfunded mandates by state to local government; assessment of life-cycle costs in funding new or renewed infrastructure and effect of an ageing population's capacity to pay land rates and user-fee services; access to free data and exchange; a focus on and integrated strategic natural, built and social environmental analysis by all governments; and streamlining and aggregation of data collection and presentation for statutory reports and surveys.

It is estimated the unfunded mandates and related matters annually costs Eurobodalla Shire Council in the vicinity of 15% of its general rate yield. Granting a 4% share of GST revenues direct to local government would largely offset the current financial assistance/NCP imbalance.

Council wishes to present its views at a public hearing understood to be held by the Enquiry later this year. Our Councillor Chris Vardon would be happy to attend that hearing.

If you require further information please contact me on (02) 4474-1347.

Yours faithfully

Peter Tegart
Director Environment Planning & Administrative Services