



DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL

Reference: Stephen Mackay
Telephone: (03) 6261 8518

26 July 2002

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

Dear Secretary

COMMONWEALTH INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT & COST SHIFTING

My council is pleased to see that the Federal Minister has requested an inquiry into the cost shifting between the three spheres of Government, we would be pleased if you could accept this letter as our initial submission to the inquiry.

We would also be pleased if we could be permitted to undertake a consultation process with our community and then forward to you a detailed submission within three weeks.

The submission we are proposing will cover the following areas under the terms of reference:

- Provision of environmental health regulatory functions.
- Avoidance of the payment of rates & charges by Government Business Enterprises.
- National Road Transport Commission funding - failure to index the Consumer Price Index to payments following the removal of road toll payments.
- Failure to pass on NCP and GST payments despite the fact that Local Government is forced to comply when in a number of cases the State Government has not complied.
- Administration of the Public Health Act.
- Collection and payment of Library Levy. Requirement for Councils to pay Library Levy in advance regardless of the level of collection of rates, thereby carrying bad debts on behalf of the state.

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

Submission No:81.....

Date Received:27/7/02.....

Secretary:Burdell.....

- Failure of the State Government to increase road funding to ensure a better result from the Roads to Recovery program. In some cases, withdrawal of services (eg line marking).
- Collection and payment of Fire Levies. Requirement for Councils to pay Fire Levy in advance regardless of the level of collection of rates, thereby carrying bad debts on behalf of the state.

Council wishes to have the opportunity to make a detailed written submission to the inquiry, as well as an opportunity to meet with the Committee to further discuss its submission.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Mackay
GENERAL MANAGER