

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

577 HANNAN STREET, KALGOORLIE

OUR REF: OUT02/767434:CB:LY-00023,00635
YOUR REF:
ENQUIRIES TO: Ms Chris Bolvig

26 July 2002

Mr David Hawker, MP
Chairman
House of Representatives Economics,
Finance & Public Administration Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

House of representatives Standing Committee
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

Submission No: 91

Date Received: 26/7/02

Secretary: *Burdell*

Dear Mr Hawker

RE: INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COST SHIFTING

The issue of cost shifting from Federal and State levels of Government to Local Government is of major concern to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder as it is to all Local Governments. There has been a gradual withdrawal of Federal and State Government services from non-metropolitan areas of Australia and as a consequence Local Government has often been left with the task of filling services gaps.

This inquiry is specifically concerned with cost shifting from the State Government arena to Local Governments, however we are of the belief that it must also be recognised that cost shifting from the Federal Government to State Government generally has a domino effect down to Local Government.

There are many areas of State Government responsibility where the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder commits funds to ensure that an adequate level of service is available to our community. Included amongst these are:

1. Public safety issues. Within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder crime levels remain high and the fear of crime has increased. Despite this there are insufficient resources currently available to the Western Australian Police Service in the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and this can be evidenced by:
 - a) The Boulder Police Station being closed down removing a permanent Police presence from the area.
 - b) The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder being requested to provide rent free accommodation for a Police Shop Front in the Kalgoorlie Central Business District.
 - c) The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder currently investigating the introduction of a private security patrol system to address crime and anti-social issues within the City.
 - d) The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder providing \$25,000 funding per year to assist transportation services offered by the Wunngagutu Parol.

.../2

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY
TO FRIDAY 8AM TO 5PM
www.kalbould.wa.gov.au

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PO BOX 2042, BOULDER WA 6432

TELEPHONE: (08) 9021 9600
FACSIMILE: (08) 9021 6113
mailbag@kalbould.wa.gov.au

2. Health and Welfare issues. The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is heavily involved with the provision of Health and Welfare services to the community including:
 - a) Welfare services delivered from the Eastern Goldfields Community Centre cost the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder approximately \$1,000,000 per year and only \$520,000 of Home and Community Care funding is received.
 - b) Recurrently funding was available for an Aboriginal Liaison Officer for two years from the Western Australian Aboriginal Affairs Department. This created an expectation of service in our Aboriginal Community which has had to be funded from City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder rates since 2001.
 - c) Provision of culturally appropriate accommodations for itinerant people at the Aboriginal Community Facility camps because of a lack of any other appropriate accommodation.
 - d) Rent assistance to a Doctor to ensure ongoing availability of medical facilities in Boulder.
3. Infrastructure, Transportation and Development issues. The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder contributes to the provision of services in this area via:
 - a) A contribution of \$100,000 per year to the Goldfields Transport Board to provide a public transport system for Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
 - b) Crown exemptions for licences and rates for government organisations which decreases the funding base for Local Government services and at the same time increases the burden on the general community. Crown exemptions also create an unequal system of rating and development costs within the community. Eg. a State Government School does not have to provide adequate parking within their developments but a private school does which adds greatly to projects costs.

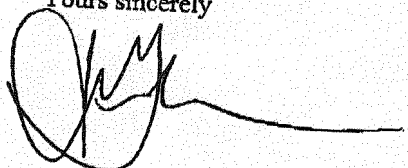
These three sets of examples above are but a few of the issues identified by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder as cost shifting impacts on our Local Government.

With the assistance of the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has recently undertaken a community wide Needs Analysis. This document is nearing completion and will provide an invaluable planning tool for the whole community in the future. It has revealed many examples of both service duplication and service gaps, which require remedial action.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder would like the opportunity to make a detailed face to face representation to the Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration on the Inquiry into Local Government and Cost Shifting and invite you to visit the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to canvas the opinion of ourselves and other Local Governments from rural, regional and remote Western Australia.

We would also like to take the opportunity to present to you on the issues identified within the Needs Analysis and of course introduce to you our wonderful City, the Outback's largest City in this year of the Outback.

Yours sincerely



IAN FLETCHER
Chief Executive Officer