



04 February 2013

Mr Glenn Worthington  
Secretary  
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Reform  
of Local Government  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Submission Number: 165**  
**Date Received: 5/02/2013**

Dear Mr Worthington

**RE: Submission on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government  
(Ref: R09/0007NB)**

I refer to the formation of a Joint Select Committee to look into Constitutional Recognition of Local Government and would like to make a submission on this matter.

Since recently becoming Mayor of Lithgow City Council, it has been my observation and experience that the community has a close relationship with local government and we are able to identify community needs and find solutions to every day local issues. As an elected body, Councillors make sure local government meets the need and the best outcome for their local communities.

It is of utmost importance that local government is recognised in the Constitution through a change to Section 96, which would allow our Council, and through it to local communities, to continue to receive funding directly from the Federal Government to meet local service and infrastructure needs.

In seeking recognition, it is not local government's intention as a whole to break or change the relationship it has with the States and Territory Governments, nor are we seeking for more money. We would like to ensure the Federal Government can continue the current funding arrangements where it provides money directly to local communities, through programs such as Roads to Recovery.

Therefore, it is my request that the wording of the current financial recognition proposal reinforces that local government intends to remain under the jurisdiction of State and Territory Governments.

Yours sincerely

Clr Maree Statham  
**MAYOR**

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