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15 February 2013

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Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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Dear Mr Worthington

Support for Constitutional Recognition

I refer to correspondence from the Australian Local Government Association updating Council on the progress of the campaign to achieve constitutional recognition and advising that the Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government (the Joint Select Committee) has been established to consider the proposal.

At South Burnett Regional Council's meeting held on 19 December 2012, Minute Number 6726, Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring its support for recognition of Local government in the Australian Constitution.

Council is now forwarding its submission to Joint Select Committee to advise that:

- Council fully supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest;
- Council needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue;
- Council supports an amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution so that it would read: "Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory";
- Council considers bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success;
- Council supports the referendum being held at a time which maximizes its chance of success; and

Customer Service Centres

Blackbutt 69 Hart Street
 Kingaroy 45 Glendon Street
 Nanango 48 Drayton Street

Murgon 42 Stephens Street West
 Wondai Cnr Mackenzie & Scott Streets

- Council supports a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign to inform the public about the constitution, how to change it, and about the question being asked before the referendum. An informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote, which is based on facts rather than misinformation.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission, confirming Council's strong support for constitutional recognition of local government.

Please contact Council's Manager Governance, Sharon Frank on email if you would like more information.

Yours faithfully,

~~Ken~~ McLoughlin
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER