



**Inquiry into Local Government Funding**

## **Inquiry into local government funding & responsibilities - Public hearings in Northern Territory -**

The House of Representatives Economics Committee is examining the financial position of local government in Australia, and in particular the issue of cost-shifting onto local government.

The Inquiry has been initiated in response to concerns that local government is increasingly having to provide a range of services to communities, such as health centres, aged care facilities, employment programs and security guards, without being provided financial resources to do so.

As part of the inquiry, the Committee will hold two days of public hearings in the Northern Territory next week (Monday 7 October in Katherine and Tuesday 8 October in Darwin). Details appear below. The hearings will include opportunities for the public to make statements to the committee on the issues of the inquiry.

The Inquiry is examining local government's current roles and responsibilities, current and alternative funding arrangements, and the scope for achieving a rationalisation of roles and responsibilities between the levels of government. It is interested in achieving better use of resources and delivering better quality services to local communities.

**WHO:** House of Representatives Economics Committee Inquiry into Local Government  
**WHAT & WHEN:** Public hearings, Monday 7 October & Tuesday 8 October 2002  
**WHERE:** 7 October - Katherine Town Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Stuart Highway  
8 October – Darwin Council Chambers, Harry Chan Avenue

### **PROGRAM**

#### *Monday 7 October - Katherine*

9.00 am **Katherine Town Council**  
10.00 am **Pine Creek Community Government Council**  
10.30 am **Barunga Manyallaluk Community Government Council**  
11.15 am **Walangeri Ngumpinku Community Government Council**  
11.45 am **Coomalie Community Government Council**  
2.00 pm **Statements from the general public**

#### *Tuesday 8 October - Darwin*

9.00 am **Northern Territory Government**  
9.45 am **Local Government Association of the Northern Territory**  
10.45 am **Darwin City Council**  
11.15 am **Palmerston City Council**  
11.45 am **Tiwi Islands Local Government**  
2.00 pm **ATSIC Northern Territory**  
2.45 pm **Kardu Numida Council**  
3.15 pm **Statements from the general public**

The Committee expects to report to Government by mid-2003. The Government will wait for the Committee's report before considering the recommendations of the Commonwealth Grant's Commission's review of the Local Government (Financial Assistance Act) 1995.

**For media comment: please contact Committee Chair David Hawker on (03) 5572 1100**

### **For further information:**

Susan Cardell, Inquiry Secretary on telephone: 02 6277 2022, mobile: 0411 440 490,  
or email Susan.Cardell.Reps@aph.gov.au.

**House Economics Committee:**

**Chairman:** Mr David Hawker MP

**Deputy Chair:** Ms Anna Burke MP

**Members:** Mr Anthony Albanese MP  
Ms Teresa Gambaro MP  
Mr Alan Griffin MP  
Mr Peter King MP

Mr Mark Latham MP  
Mr Gary Nairn MP  
Hon Alex Somlyay MP  
Dr Andrew Southcott MP