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24 January 2013

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

Dear Sir

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council continues to support financial recognition in the Constitution which was first resolved by Council on 19 October 2011.

Council strongly supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is of national interest.

It is imperative that councils have certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue.

Our 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***".

Bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success and that the referendum be held at a time which maximises its chances of success.

We believe that 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.

We look forward to hearing about the positive outcomes from your work.

For further information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on

Yours faithfully

Donald McKinnon
Mayor