



# ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL

St George Street, Georgetown QLD 4871, Australia

Phone: (07) 4062 1233 Fax: (07) 4062 1285 Email: info@etheridge.qld.gov.au

... a part of the GULF SAVANNAH REGION

ABN 576 652 388 57

Address all correspondence to:  
The Chief Executive Officer  
PO Box 12  
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871

Our ref: 1112LR:sab

**Submission Number: 31**

**Date Received: 28/11/2012**

Tuesday 20 November 2012.

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

Dear Sir,

**RE: CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

I am writing in support of the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) case to have Local Government in Australia recognised by the Australian Constitution. Primarily, we are seeking the financial support for Local Government to ensure the future funding for Councils across Australia is not jeopardised.

My Council would like to strongly advise its support for ALGA and seek to have a referendum encompassing the case for recognition of Local Government.

To summarise the various issues:-

- Council fully supports financial recognition as evidenced by Council's resolution below

**RESOLUTION:**

*That Etheridge Shire Council declares its support for financial recognition for Local Government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund Local Government directly and also for inclusion of Local Government in any new Preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed, and call on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.*

**MOVED:** Cr Gross

**SECONDED:** Cr Butler

**CARRIED**  
**RESOLUTION NO.2011 /GM244**  
**5/0**

- Council 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 supports the referendum being held at a time which maximises its chance of success;

- 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

Our Shire is a large remote shire with a small rating base. For our residents to enjoy some quality of life and to ensure some security around the large commercial cattle based industries, it is essential that federal funding be sustained if our community is to retain its current level of operational viability.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me directly on

Yours Sincerely

Lew Rojahn  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER