

**Submission Number: 62**  
**Date Received: 13/12/2012**



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**Contact:** Christie Spry

Reference: S02046 2012/300511  
12 December 2012

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

Dear Sir,

### CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

On 22 March 2011 Ku-ring-gai Council considered and passed the following resolution;

*"Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition."*

Subsequent to this motion, letters were sent by Ku-ring-gai's Mayor to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and to Federal Members of Parliament to advise them of Council's support.

Council supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government as well as an amendment to Section 96 of the constitution so that it reads: Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition and a referendum being held at a time which will maximise its chance of success.

Yours faithfully

~~John McKee~~  
General Manager

Encl: Resolution of Council and Letters requesting support of Constitutional Recognition

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## NOTICE OF MOTION

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### CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Notice of Motion from Elise Keays dated 22 February 2011

I move that:

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

Should this recommendation be accepted by Council a letter by sent to our local State and Federal members, leaders of the Greens, Labor and all independents at State and Federal level, Mr Tony Abbott and the Prime Minister's office. A draft letter is attached for your information. Should there be any changes made to the draft, a copy is to be provided to Councillors before it is sent out for comment.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

Elise Keays  
Councillor for Gordon Ward

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## NOTICE OF MOTION

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### CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Notice of Motion from Councillor Elise Keays dated 14 March 2011

I move that:

"Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

Should this recommendation be accepted by Council, a letter be sent to our local State and Federal members, leaders of the Greens, Labor and all independents at State and Federal level, Mr Tony Abbott and the Prime Minister's office. A draft letter is attached for your information. Should there be any changes made to the draft, a copy is to be provided to Councillors before it is sent out for comment."

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

Elise Keays  
Councillor for Gordon Ward

<b>Background Information:</b>	A1	Draft letter to Prime Minister	2011/034462
	A2	Draft letter to Leader of the Opposition	2011/034468
	A3	Draft letter to your Local MP	2011/034465

Reference: S02046 / 2011/133417  
28 June 2011



Mayor Genia McCaffery  
President  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Ct  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor McCaffery

**Constitutional Recognition of Local Government - Resolutions of Support from Council**

I write to advise that Ku-ring-gai Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011:

*"Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition."*

Subsequent to that, letters were sent by Ku-ring-gai Mayor to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Federal Members of Parliament to advise them of Council's support.

Yours sincerely

John McKee  
General Manager

c.c. LGSA

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/077364  
17 May 2011



Mr Tony Windsor MP  
Member for New England  
Parliament House  
PO Box 6022  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Windsor

#### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the Member for New England, I am writing to seek your support.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/077234  
17 May 2011

  
Ms Clover Moore MP  
Member for Sydney  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Moore

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the Member for Sydney, I am writing to seek your support and the support of your party.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/077200  
17 May 2011

  
Mr Richard Torbay MP  
Speaker  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Torbay

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the Member for Northern Tablelands, I am writing to seek your support and the support of your party.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Paper v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2010/077134

17 May 2011



Mr John Robertson MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Robertson

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the local Member for Blacktown, I am writing to seek your support and the support of your party.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/077123  
17 May 2011



Mr Barry O'Farrell MP  
Premier  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr O'Farrell

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the local Member for Ku-ring-gai, I am writing to seek your support and the support of your party.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/076427  
17 May 2011

  
Mr Andrew Wilkie MP  
Member for Denison, Tas  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Wilkie

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the local Member for Denison, I am writing to seek your support.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely


Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/076412  
17 May 2011

  
Mr Robert Oakeshott MP  
Member for Lyne, NSW  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Oakeshott

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the Member for Lyne, I am writing to seek your support.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/076384  
17 May 2011



The Hon Bob Katter MP  
Member for Kennedy, Qld  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Katter

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the local Member for Kennedy, I am writing to seek your support.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/076345  
17 May 2011

  
Senator Bob Brown MP  
Leader of the Australian Greens  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Brown

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the Senator for Tasmania, I am writing to seek your support and the support of your party.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.


Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/076298  
17 May 2011

  
The Hon Warren Truss MP  
Leader of the Nationals  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Truss

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the Member for Wide Bay, I am writing to seek your support and the support of your party.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/ 076173

17 May 2011



Mr Paul Fletcher MP  
Member for Bradfield  
Suite 8, 12-18 Tryon Road  
LINDFIELD NSW 2070

Dear Mr Fletcher

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties – Labor, Liberal, National and Greens – publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed. Each parliamentarian will cast a vote on the referendum proposal and as the local Member for Bradfield, I am writing to seek your support and the support of your party.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/076154

17 May 2011



The Hon Tony Abbott MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Abbott

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

Bipartisan support for a referendum proposal is essential for its success. The leaders of the Liberal Party and National Party both publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government at the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government. The recent announcement by the Federal Government to hold a referendum into the constitutional recognition of local government by 2013 is an important step in the process of reform.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

**Ku-ring-gai Council declares its support for financial recognition of 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 calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.**

Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Contact: Mayor

Reference: S02046 /2011/076130

17 May 2011

  
The Hon Julia Gillard MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

### Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

The Government's announcement to hold a referendum into the constitutional recognition of local government by 2013 is welcomed by Ku-ring-gai Council.

Councils throughout Australia play a vital role in the provision of essential services and infrastructure at the local and regional level including at times of natural disasters. I am writing to advise you of a resolution passed recently by Council supporting the constitutional recognition of local government and to seek your support for Council's position.

The importance of the constitutional recognition of local government has been highlighted in stark terms by the 2009 decision of the High Court in the case of *Pape v Federal Commissioner of Taxation* which raises legal doubt over the Commonwealth's powers to fund local government directly.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities receive the services and infrastructure they deserve. Council considered and passed the following resolution on 22 March 2011.

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Council urges you to support the constitutional recognition of local government and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Cr Ian Cross  
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR