

Crookwell Shire Council

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Our Ref: **bw:ab**
Please quote when responding: 2.10.12

2 July, 2002

House of representatives Standing Committee on
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

Submission No: 19

Date Received: 16/7/02

Secretary: Burdell

The Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Economics
Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
CANBERRA NSW 2600

Dear Sir,

Re: Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government.

The following comments are provided in relation to the Cost Shifting Inquiry:

1. In order to determine local government roles and responsibilities it is necessary that the three tiers of government meet to consider the roles and responsibilities of each tier in relation to service etc. provided to the community. In that respect there will be areas of overlaps established, however, the defining of roles and responsibilities will give a starting point and also enable the funding of the various roles and responsibilities to be established.

To look at the current roles and responsibilities of local government (in isolation) would seem to have limitations in resolving the cost shifting issue.

2. The terms of reference of inquiry refer to the impact on and ability of local government to provide existing and additional responsibilities. It is considered that "looking back" at examples will not resolve the matter; assess how future services will be delivered and then seek to establish funding mechanisms for same. Integration of the "bits and pieces" provided across the tiers of government would be an important part of this process.
3. The Cost Shifting inquiry should look at establishing a longer term project aimed at integrating the "better" provision of services etc to the community.

The opportunity to comment on this issue is appreciated.

Yours faithfully



B Wilkinson
General Manager