

**NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE  
OF THE WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

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**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

April 11, 2003

The Secretary  
House Economics Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

House of representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration	
Submission No:.....	371
Date Received:.....	22/4/03
Secretary:.....	

Dear Sir / Madam

**INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COST SHIFTING**

At a recent meeting, the Northern Country Zone of WALGA resolved that concerns surrounding proposed cost shifting from WA Police to Local Government should be brought to your attention.

From time to time, certain police stations in smaller or regional country areas are threatened with closure for a number of reasons.

A number of our Member Councils reported at our recent meeting that, following efforts to lobby the Police department with respect to retaining a police presence in their town, that Local Government had then been approached to provide housing and sometimes office accommodation in an effort to retain that police service.

The Shire of Mingenew is one such authority which is currently faced with this situation. That Police service is threatened with a downgrading from the current Police Station which houses two officers to just an occasional Police service from nearby Dongara. After lobbying to retain the service, the Shire was approached to provide housing for Police Officers.

This is certainly a worrying trend of cost shifting. In the past, local government has been encouraged to provide housing for medical and education services within towns, however for this to extend to police raises concerns that only towns that can afford additional supporting services will, in the future be provided with essential policing services.

The Zone thanks you for your consideration of this matter within your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Jane Keefe

Zone Secretary