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Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the
Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
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Dear Mr Worthington

Thank you for your email of 10 December 2012 and the opportunity to provide input into the Inquiry by the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

The ACT holds a unique constitutional position in Australia. As a self governing city-state that is also the nation's capital, we combine both state and local government functions. In these circumstances, the proposed amendment has limited direct relevance to the ACT.

Therefore, while the ACT acknowledges there may be a need to remove legal uncertainty from funding to local government, there is also a risk of blurring of the already complex financial roles and responsibilities across different layers of government and undermining existing federal funding mechanisms. As these concerns have already been raised by other jurisdictions in their submissions to the Expert Panel, I hope they will also be addressed by the Joint Committee.

The Committee should also be aware of the need to ensure that any proposed amendment to section 96 does not adversely impact the ACT Government's ability to access Commonwealth Government support, nor diminish its status as city-state.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Committee's deliberations. I look forward to its report.

Yours sincerely

Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister

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