



Office of the Mayor

13 February 2013

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

Dear Mr Worthington

On behalf of the Gladstone regional Council I am pleased to present Council's formal submission to the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition for Local Government.

The Gladstone Region is home to more than 63,000 permanent residents with an economy dominated by heavy industry, construction and manufacturing. The region is currently in the midst of a dramatic industrial growth phase that will generate significant benefits for the economy of the State of Queensland and the nation for many years to come. This growth phase in an era of tight fiscal constraint has highlighted the need for all levels of Government to be able to utilise available resources in the most efficient manner possible.

In order to serve our community in the most efficient and effective manner possible we consider it vital that the Federal Government has the power to directly fund Local Government.

As a result, Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as a timely reform to Australia's system of governance. In this regard Council supports amending Section 96 of the Australian 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."

Conscious of the poor success rate of previous constitutional referendums, Council supports a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign to properly inform the community about the issue.

We also believe that timing is an important factor and support the referendum being held at whatever time maximises the chance of success.

The Gladstone Regional Council urges the Joint Committee to support recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

Yours faithfully

GAIL SELLERS



**GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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