



Submission Number: 67
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Cr Mal Forman

27 November, 2012.

Mr G. Worthington
 Secretary
 Joint Select Committee on the
 Constitutional Recognition of
 Local Government
 Parliament House
 PO Box 6021
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Worthington,

At its Meeting of 9 July, 2008, Council Resolved as follows:-

"That Council – in recognising the complementary roles played by Local, State and Federal Governments in the governance of the nation – support the proposal that Local Government should be formally recognised in the Constitution of Australia, enabling the development of a genuine partnership between the three spheres of Government to most effectively meet the needs of communities across Australia".

Council continues its strong support for this resolution; and for the process of the conduct of a Referendum to recognise Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

Research undertaken by the Local Government Association of Queensland has indicated that ratepayers believe that local councils are an essential layer of governments providing vital services every day of the year; and as such should receive a more equitable percentage of funding allocated from both State and Federal Governments.

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Constitutional recognition for Local Government will ensure that the Commonwealth Government can continue to directly fund Local Governments (proposed in the amendment to Section 96). This is critical to the ongoing financial sustainability of Councils and the ability to provide the services our communities expect and deserve.

The Roads to Recovery and the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Programmes are clear examples of the benefits to Councils and its communities as a result of direct funding to Local Government.

It is considered that a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign should also be part of any Referendum process, to ensure all are fully informed of the process and the factual benefits of inclusion of Local Government recognition in the Australian Constitution.

Council requests that your Committee take this Letter into account as part of any submission process undertaken.

If you require any further advice or clarification, please contact me on 4130 4264.

Yours faithfully,

Cr Mal. Forman
Mayor.