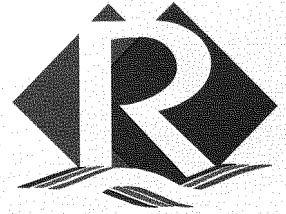


Our Ref: GTS 2-27  
Your Ref:  
Enquiries: Bradley Duke  
Telephone: 07 4936 8286  
Facsimile: 07 4922 7351  
Email: dukeb@rcc.qld.gov.au



19 February 2002

Greg Hallam PSM  
Executive Director, LGAQ  
P O Box 2230  
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006

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

Submission No: ..... 240 .....

Date Received: .....

Secretary: ..... Badell .....

Dear Greg

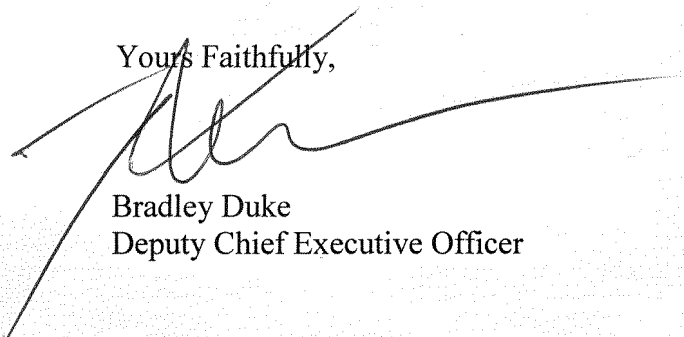
**INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COST SHIFTING – LGAQ –  
ROCHAMPTON'S RESPONSE TO SURVEY**

Please find *attached* copy of Council's response to the major survey prepared by the LGAQ of Qld local government regarding the above inquiry currently being conducted by the Commonwealth Government.

It is Council's intention to actively participate in this inquiry and further submissions will be made to the inquiry and other stakeholders over time. A further submission will be made to the ALGA in accordance with their inquiry template.

Should you require any further information regarding Council's responses, please call me direct on 07 4936 8286.

Yours Faithfully,

  
Bradley Duke  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

cc:- ALGA, ULGA (Qld) and the Standing Committee on Economics,  
Finance and Public Administration

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Local Government  
Association  
of Queensland Inc.

## URGENT

### MAJOR SURVEY OF QUEENSLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ON

### COMMONWEALTH INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COST SHIFTING

This Major Survey has been developed to gather data needed to prepare a detailed and comprehensive submission to the Commonwealth Inquiry into Cost Shifting by State Government to Local Government. The information provided by responding Councils is vital to provide quantitative and empirical evidence to the Inquiry in accordance with an Action Plan adopted by the Executive of the Association.

#### Background

The Federal Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government has asked the House of Representatives Economics, Finance and Public Administration Committee to inquire into cost shifting onto local government by state governments and the financial position of local government.

This Inquiry will include an examination of:

1. Local government's current roles and responsibilities.
2. Current funding arrangements for local government, including allocation of funding from other levels of government and utilisation of alternative funding sources by local government.
3. The capacity of local government to meet existing obligations and to take on an enhanced role in developing opportunities at a regional level including opportunities for councils to work with other councils and pool funding to achieve regional outcomes.
4. Local government expenditure and the impact on local government's financial capacity as a result of changes in the powers, functions and responsibilities between state and local governments.
5. The scope for achieving a rationalisation of roles and responsibilities between the levels of government, better use of resources and better quality services to local communities.
6. The findings of the Commonwealth Grants Commission Review of the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 of June 2001, taking into account the views of interested parties as sought by the Committee. The inquiry is to be conducted on the basis that the outcomes will be budget neutral for the Commonwealth.

Minister Tuckey has also linked the issue of constitutional recognition of Local Government to the Inquiry.

The LGAQ is seeking an urgent response to the attached questionnaire to assist with the preparation of a submission on behalf of Local Government in Queensland.

**Nothing short of your Council's future roles, responsibilities and funding could be at stake.  
Hence our request for your total and immediate cooperation.**

The Inquiry requires initial submissions by 26 July 2002, although the Inquiry is not expected to report until mid 2003. While LGAQ will lodge an initial submission by 26 July, 2002, the data from this survey will form part of a supplementary submission lodged in August 2002.

Response to the attached questionnaire by **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2002** is therefore requested.

Council Name ROCKHAMPTON CITY Date 28 July 2002

Contact Person Bradley Duke Phone 07-4936 8286

Position Deputy CEO/Director Corporate Services Fax 07 4922 7351

E-mail Address dukeb@rcc.qld.gov.au

The LGAQ thanks you in advance for your time and effort in completing this survey.

*For questions about the survey, please contact:*

**Greg Hoffman, Director Policy & Research**

Phone 3000 2245 or by E-mail at [greg\\_hoffman@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:greg_hoffman@lgaq.asn.au) , or

**Mark Leyland, Finance & Governance Advisor**

Phone 3000 2201 or by E-mail at [mark\\_leyland@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:mark_leyland@lgaq.asn.au)

**Completed surveys should be returned by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2002 to:**

Barbara Kelly

LGAQ

E-mail to: [Barbara\\_Kelly@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:Barbara_Kelly@lgaq.asn.au)

Fax to: 07 3252 4473

Or mail to:

PO Box 2230

Fortitude Valley BC Qld 4006

**Q.1 Regional Arrangements (TOR 3)**

Is your Council a member of a Regional Organisation of Councils?

Yes .....  No ..... (mark box) If 'yes' name of ROC ..... **CQROC**.....

(a) Could you please provide details of *your financial contribution* to activities carried out through regional arrangements (including annual subscriptions, if any) over the last five years (please include contributions to all activities undertaken through a specific regional organization, not just through a ROC (eg Economic Development Board, River Improvement Trust, etc).

Type of Regional arrangement (specify)	1997/98 \$ outlays	1998/99 \$ outlays	1999/00 \$ outlays	2000/01 \$ outlays	2001/02 \$ outlays
ROC – <b>CQROC</b> <i>Waste Management</i>		<b>22950</b> <b>6140</b>	<b>6140</b>	<b>24937</b> <b>44140</b>	<b>31392</b> <b>44000</b>
Regional Dev/Tourism. Board – • <i>Capricorn Tourism</i> • <i>RTBI</i> • <i>RRDL</i>		<b>42000</b> <b>210000</b>	<b>42000</b> <b>305000</b>	<b>42000</b> <b>225000</b>	<b>42000</b> <b>380000</b> <b>\$100000</b>
Regional Community Dev. Body					
Regional Natural Resource/Pest Management ( <i>Capricorn Pest Management Group</i> )				<b>100</b>	
River Improvement Trust					

Type of Regional arrangement (specify)	1997/98 \$ outlays	1998/99 \$ outlays	1999/00 \$ outlays	2000/01 \$ outlays	2001/02 \$ outlays
Other (specify)					
• <i>Annual subscription to the CQLGA?</i>	200	200	200	200	200
• <i>Port Authority</i>	90000				
• <i>Integrated Planning Study (Water and wastewater strategy)</i>		50000			
• <i>Capricorn Integrated Regional Transport Plan</i>					12500
• <i>CQ A New Millennium</i>					50000 (in-kind)

(b) Do you consider there is *scope for more regional level activities involving Local Government* to provide enhanced outcomes and improved services for communities, including more effective use of resources?

Yes .....  No ..... (mark box) If 'yes', what opportunities do you consider exist:

*Water quality – Catchment Level – Declared Plant Management/Feral Animal Control*

**Q.2. Agency Arrangements**

Could you please identify below specific **contract works** (and value in 2001/02) undertaken for State, Federal or other semi-government agencies. This relates to reimbursable works undertaken on a fee for service basis for these other bodies.

Agency	Nature of activities	Value of contracts (01/02)
Main Roads	<i>Roadworks</i>	373724
Dept Natural Resources & Mines		
Qld Parks & Wildlife Service		
Environmental Protection Agency		
Public Works Dept.		
Queensland Health	<i>Immunisation</i>	38578
Queensland Education		

Agency	Nature of activities	Value of contracts (01/02)
Telstra		
Ergon/Energex		
Others (specify)		
Others (specify)		

### Q.3. "Discretionary" Activities

Could you please identify below, specific functions and activities (and value in 2001/02) undertaken by your council, which would not normally be regarded as an activity of local government, or would typically be provided by a State or Federal agency (including corporatised/privatised organizations) elsewhere in Australia. The reason for involvement could be inadequate or non existent services.

Function	Nature of Activity	Outlays (01/02)	Revenue 01/02 (if any)
Law & Order (eg night patrols)	<i>Day/Night patrols</i> <i>CCTV</i>	<b>190000</b> <b>114000</b>	<b>50000</b>
Health (eg support for rural doctor, hospital funding)			
Education (eg support to some aspect of primary/secondary education)	<i>Environmental education with primary and secondary schools (including staff salaries)</i>	<b>54691</b>	
Welfare (eg aged care)	<i>Aged Care (Sub-programme in RCC budget)</i>	<b>1020848</b>	<b>794755</b>
Public Housing (not staff housing)			
Communications (eg television/radio)			
Roads/Transport (not Council roads or MRD contract works)			
Environment Protection (eg clean-up of chemical spills)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Minor spills</i></li> <li>• <i>Erosion control problems</i></li> </ul>	<b>3600</b> <b>1500</b>	

Function	Nature of Activity	Outlays (01/02)	Revenue 01/02 (if any)
Other (specify) – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Feral animal control in areas bordering National Parks</i></li> <li>• <i>Ergon Energy – Works inspections</i></li> <li>• <i>Telstra – Works inspections</i></li> <li>• <i>Management Maintenance – Urban Waterways</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Erosion control – noxious weed control – revegetation with indigenous plants – monitoring biodiversity</i></li> </ul>	500  1500  2000  85000	

**Q.4 Devolution of Responsibilities (TOR 4)**

The following question seeks to identify both costs imposed on Local Government through transfer from Commonwealth or State Governments [part (a)] as well as costs resulting from increased compliance or administrative requirements of other spheres of government [part (b)].

(a) Do you consider that devolution of responsibilities (ie functions transferred from the Commonwealth or State to Local Government) over the last ten years to your Council have placed an increased financial burden on your council, after allowing for any increased revenues resulting?

Yes .....  No ..... (mark box)

If “yes”, please identify below those functions or activities that you consider have been devolved from the State or Commonwealth in the last ten years and have resulted in increased financial burdens (eg environmental responsibilities, emergency services, etc).

Activity/Function	Estimated annual cost \$	Estimated annual income \$ (ie fees, user charges or specific purpose grants)
1. <i>Environmental Protection Act and Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act</i>	213000	102000
2. <i>Food Safety Standards 2001</i>	50000	
3. <i>Fire Services Act 2002 and subsequent amendments to Building Act</i>		

- (b) Could you please identify other functions and activities where requirements of Commonwealth or State legislation have resulted in increased compliance/administrative costs for Local Government over the last ten years. Could you also estimate the additional annual compliance costs you believe are associated with each activity identified.

Activity/Function	Additional Annual Compliance cost \$ ( <i>staff and resources</i> )
<i>Regional mosquito control activities</i>	130000
<i>Nuisance legislation</i>	20000
<i>Powers of Entry/Evidence gathering</i>	1000

- (c) In relation to both the devolution of responsibilities [part (a) above] or the additional compliance and administrative costs [part (b) above], could you please estimate the number of additional staff required (if any) to meet these additional responsibilities over the last ten years.

Estimated additional staff required for (a) and (b) above: 6.5.....

**Q.5 Rationalisation of Roles (TOR 5)**

- (a) Are there any specific areas of service provision in your local area which are currently undertaken by State or Commonwealth Government departments or agencies which you feel could be better undertaken by your Council in terms of better use of resources and better service outcomes?

Yes .....  No ..... (mark box)

If 'yes' could you please identify the specific services or functions you are referring to.

Function/Service	Why better outcome?
<i>Environmental responsibilities</i>	<i>Local government is part of the community and would be in the best position to judge environmental issues in its own community</i>
<i>Regulatory roles</i>	<i>Officers closest to the residents – better chance of negotiating a successful outcome – need matching funding and resources to make it a success</i>

- (b) Are there any specific roles of Local Government that you consider would be better undertaken by the State or Commonwealth Governments?

Yes .....  No ..... (mark box)

If 'yes' could you please identify the specific services or functions you are referring to.



Function/Service	Why better outcome?
<i>Policing and Law and Order</i>	<i>Established bureaucracy and infrastructure that can be better controlled by the political and democratic system</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>Established bureaucracy and infrastructure that can be better controlled by the political and democratic system</i>
<i>Health and Welfare</i>	<i>Established bureaucracy and infrastructure that can be better controlled by the political and democratic system</i>

#### Q.6 Other Issues

Are there any other issues relevant to funding arrangements for Local Government that you consider are important to bring to the attention of this Inquiry? If so, what are they.

#### Grants Commission

A complete review of the grants commission's purpose would need attention. If this enquiry is expecting local governments to "assume" responsibilities for health, schools and police, there will need to be strict legislative guidelines between federal and state governments in what revenue local government is to receive to ensure service delivery is not effected. Local government is closest to the people and it will be even more closer should state responsibilities be devolved further. Constitutional recognition for local government would be mandatory and possible investigations in producing a federal Local Government Act covering the more generic matters Councils would need to take control of.

#### Public Health Issues – Inconsistent funding arrangements

Queensland Health advocacy for public health issues under the Public Health Protocol 2000, eg. Community Health Planning (Municipal Public Health Planning) requires new or expanded program development without a State Government funding model to help financial matters, when some of the program benefits are provided to others eg State Government especially.

With the increase in "environmental standards" local government has faced greatly increased costs (\$120,000 last year) in managing landfills. There is no additional funding coming from the State Government to assist local government as there were sewerage treatment plant upgrades required under the EPA.

#### Q.7 Other Comments

Do you have any additional comments to make in relation to this Inquiry and its Terms of Reference, or any particular points you would like to see made in the LGAQ submission to the Inquiry?

#### 1. Regional Growth Management Framework - Establishing leadership and advocacy for the Central Qld region

At the General Purposes (Standing) Committee of Council held on 17 June 2002, the CEO was requested to prepare a discussion paper on the future Regional and Sub-Regional Government Structures to ensure adequate integration with Regional Initiatives such as CQ A New Millennium implementation and National Plan for Salinity. The draft discussion paper was debated and slightly amended by the Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) representatives of CQROC and the Central Qld Local Government Association (CQLGA) in a teleconference facilitated by the CEO on 28 June 2002. On 15 July 2002, Council adopted to support the recommendations included in the *attached* discussion paper.

At a meeting on the CQLGA held in Emerald on 23 July 2002, the following resolutions were passed:  
*Member Councils from the South subregion stated that they were happy with the proposed grouping for their area as it closely matched the current PCAC.*

*After further discussion the meeting agreed to amend the other three regions to read:-*

- *Northern: - Belyando Shire, Mirani Shire, Nebo Shire and Broadsound Shire Councils.*
- *Central Highlands – Barcaldine Shire, Jericho Shire, Emerald Shire, Duaringa Shire, Peak Downs Shire, Bauhinia Shire and Woorabinda Aboriginal Councils.*
- *Coastal – Rockhampton City, Livingstone Shire, Fitzroy Shire and Mt Morgan Shire Councils.*

*“Further the regional local government body be called the CQLGA with the words “Regional Organisation of Councils” in brackets under the name.”*

### **Natural Resource Management (NRM) – Role of Local Government**

At the Council of Aust Governments’ meeting held in April this year, the Council (in respect of NAP) agreed to support arrangements that included:

- *“Local government representation on regional bodies*
- *Local government involvement in the development of integrated natural resource management regional plans; and*
- *Awareness of regional objectives in local planning”.*

This arrangement does not appear to be sufficiently reinforced in the Bilateral Agreement between the Queensland State Government and the Commonwealth Government that refers to Local Government as if it were a ‘sectoral interest’.

There is some concern that Councils’ role *as government closest to the people* will be diminished or reduced by Commonwealth departments to one sectorial interest in matters where local government involvement and contribution in areas of conservation and the environment has been clearly demonstrated in the past. Local government is not just a stakeholder in the development of NRM for a region – rather it is established to govern local matters. Its role and level of involvement and leadership must be duly recognised in the composition of any regional body created to develop NRM plans.

Bradley Duke  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

31 July 2002