



Our Reference: 18/12/001:GH:Ih  
Your Reference:  
Contact Name: Graeme Harrison

18th December, 2012

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

18<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear Mr Worthington,

### **Constitutional Recognition of Local Government**

The issue of constitutional recognition for Local Government is firmly supported by the Horsham Rural City Council. We support Local Government having financial recognition in the constitution and for the Federal Government to have the power to directly fund local government.

Our council like most relies on the funding received through the Roads to Recovery program in order to provide essential services to our community. We need to have certainty around this funding in order to continue to provide these services.

We support the amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution so that it would read: "Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under law of a state or territory"

At the 2010 National General Assembly of Local Government, leaders of the major political parties — Labor, Liberal, National and Greens - publicly supported the constitutional recognition of local government. History has shown that bipartisan support is essential for any referendum proposal to succeed.

Any planned referendum needs to be held at an appropriate time that will maximize its chances for success and needs to be accompanied by an appropriate national education and awareness campaign that informs the public about the constitution, how to change it and about the specific question being asked.

Council strongly supports constitutional recognition as an essential step in ensuring that local communities continue to receive the services and infrastructure they deserve and trust that our views will be taken in to consideration by your committee.

Yours sincerely

  
PETER F BROWN  
Chief Executive