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4 January 2013

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

Dear Glenn

SUBMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In regard to Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, I am making a submission on behalf of the City of Kwinana Council to **reinforce** our shared desire to have local government financially recognised through inclusion in the Constitution.

The City of Kwinana formally made a decision at its Ordinary Council Meeting dated 23 March 2011, to declare its support for financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund local government directly and also for the inclusion of local government in any new Preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed, and called on all political parties to support a referendum to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

In addition to supporting financial recognition and Federal Government having the power to be able to fund local government directly, the City of Kwinana Council would like to include the following in its submission:

Council reinforces its need for certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue;

Administration

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Council supports an 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 a law of a state or territory**";

Council recognises and emphasises the need for bipartisan support as an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success in addition to the referendum being held at a time which will maximize its chance of success; and

Council supports a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign to inform the public about the Constitution, how to change it, and about the question being asked before the referendum in order for voters to be properly equipped to cast an informed vote, based on facts.

Local governments need the freedom and flexibility to fund vital local projects. Constitutional recognition will protect what we already take for granted and give local government the funding security to better deliver the services that the community needs and deserves. It should be recognised in our national Constitution, alongside state, territory and Commonwealth governments.

The City is already committed to garnering the support of our community and will be increasing this level of consultation in the coming years.

I strongly urge the Committee to support our desire to be formally recognised and look forward to your assistance in helping to protect the future of all local communities.

Yours sincerely

Carol Adams
Mayor