



Key milestones for the Republic Referendum held on 6 November 1999

Date of action	Activity undertaken	Time out from the Referendum
28 August 1997	Parliament agrees to a Convention on Republic	27 months prior
Early November - 9 December 1997	Postal election of Convention Candidates	23-24 months prior
24 December 1997	Elected Candidates for Convention announced	22½ months prior
12 February 1998	Convention concludes with preferred model	21 months prior
February 1998	PM and Leader of the Opposition pledge that the bipartisan model will be put to referendum at the end of 1999	21 months prior
1 December 1998	Referendum Task Force set up in PM&C	11 months prior
February 1999	Cabinet agrees to provide \$7.5M to the yes and no cases (restricted to advertising). 10 person " 'Yes' Advertising Committee" established to supervise the spending of money. 4 person "Yes Campaign Committee" established (Andrew Robb, Peter Barron [ALP adviser], Karin Sowada (ex Democrat Senator], Malcolm Turnbull)	9 months prior
9 March 1999	Draft Constitutional Amendment Bill released for public comment	8 months prior
11 March 1999	Bill to change referendum machinery legislation introduced into Parliament to provide 'Yes' 'No' funding and public information	8 months prior
April 1999	Changes to Referendum machinery legislation given royal assent	7 months prior
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EQUIVALENT Mid-February 2013	Local Government referendum not yet announced and waiting for the final report of the JSC end March 2013 - leaving 5½ months and 5 sitting weeks to complete all referendum processes and conditions.	
May 1999	Campaign team in place around the country - each State had a campaign committee and a full-time organiser	6 months prior

May 1999	Greg Barns appointed Campaign Director to run Yes campaign on day to day basis – takes office in June	5 ½ months prior
May/June 1999	Advertising agency and research firm appointed - ANOP to do polling and "Yes Advertising Committee" hired Singleton, Ogilvy, Mather for ads. Mitchell Partners appointed by Government to do media buys for both the Yes and No campaigns	5 ½ months prior
10 June 1999	Constitution Bill into Parliament and Joint Select Committee established, to report by 9 August	5 months prior
July 1999 7 July 1999	ARM Campaign begins in earnest (\$3 m funded primarily by Turnbull and fund raising) Yes Advertising Committee meets Singletons	4 months prior
12 August 1999	Referendum formally announced after Bills passed by Parliament	3 months prior
29 August 1999	ARM's own advertising campaign scheduled to begin	2 months prior
13 September 1999	Official Yes Case Brochure reviewed by AEC	2 months prior
19 September 1999	Public Information campaign brochure and TV ads released	1 ½ months prior
9 October 1999	Yes Advertising Campaign ads launched	1 month prior
17 October 1999	Yes campaign launch	3 weeks prior
24 October 1999	ALP Vote Yes campaign launched	2 weeks prior
29 October 1999	Yes Campaign launches its Republic Ambassadors	1 week prior
6 November 1999	Republic Referendum held	Referendum Day



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

12 February 2013

The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP
Premier of New South Wales
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 40, 1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government issued a preliminary report on 24 January in which it recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution proceed in 2013. The Committee will present its final report in March.

The Committee's preliminary report highlighted the need for engagement between the Commonwealth and state governments on a proposed set of words for a change to Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution to remove uncertainty around the capacity of the Commonwealth to directly fund local government. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the relevant Commonwealth Ministers negotiate with the state and territory governments to secure their support for a referendum proposal.

A sticking point in the past, which has hampered discussions with the states, has been the actual words of any constitutional change to be proposed by the Federal Government. The Committee has now settled on the following words for an amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution:

"...the Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State or to any local government body formed by state or territory legislation on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit."

In responding to the preliminary report the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, stated that the report now provides the words for any constitutional change.

In my earlier letter to you dated 18 December 2012 I stressed the importance of achieving a constitutional change to remove uncertainty around the issue of direct funding and I now urge you to engage constructively with Minister Crean and his colleagues on the proposed wording. I also ask that you engage with the president of your state local government association on the wording and the implications for your jurisdiction if direct federal funding of local government could no longer continue.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

12 February 2013

Ms Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister of the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Chief Minister

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government issued a preliminary report on 24 January in which it recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution proceed in 2013. The Committee will present its final report in March.

The Committee's preliminary report highlighted the need for engagement between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments on a proposed set of words for a change to Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution to remove uncertainty around the capacity of the Commonwealth to directly fund local government. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the relevant Commonwealth Ministers negotiate with the state and territory governments to secure their support for a referendum proposal.

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In responding to the preliminary report the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, stated that the report now provides the words for any constitutional change.

In my earlier letter to you dated 18 December 2012 I stressed the importance of achieving a constitutional change to remove uncertainty around the issue of direct funding and I now urge you to engage constructively with Minister Crean and his colleagues on the proposed wording.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

12 February 2013

The Hon Terry Mills MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Chief Minister

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government issued a preliminary report on 24 January in which it recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution proceed in 2013. The Committee will present its final report in March.

The Committee's preliminary report highlighted the need for engagement between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments on a proposed set of words for a change to Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution to remove uncertainty around the capacity of the Commonwealth to directly fund local government. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the relevant Commonwealth Ministers negotiate with the state and territory governments to secure their support for a referendum proposal.

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In responding to the preliminary report the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, stated that the report now provides the words for any constitutional change.

In my earlier letter to you dated 18 December 2012 I stressed the importance of achieving a constitutional change to remove uncertainty around the issue of direct funding and I now urge you to engage constructively with Minister Crean and his colleagues on the proposed wording. I understand you requested the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Adam Giles MLA meet with the president of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory on the wording and the implications for your jurisdiction if direct federal funding of local government could no longer continue.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

12 February 2013

The Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia
GPO Box 2343
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Premier

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government issued a preliminary report on 24 January in which it recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution proceed in 2013. The Committee will present its final report in March.

The Committee's preliminary report highlighted the need for engagement between the Commonwealth and state governments on a proposed set of words for a change to Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution to remove uncertainty around the capacity of the Commonwealth to directly fund local government. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the relevant Commonwealth Ministers negotiate with the state and territory governments to secure their support for a referendum proposal.

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"...the Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State or to any local government body formed by state or territory legislation on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit."

In responding to the preliminary report the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, stated that the report now provides the words for any constitutional change.

I am aware that you have formally agreed to support such a change "in principle" in the State Local Government Relations Agreement signed with the Local Government

Association of South Australia. The above developments now provide the opportunity to move from an "in principle" to a definitive position and I would now urge you to do so. In particular I would urge you to engage with Minister Crean nationally to assist in progressing this issue.

I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of your discussions.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

12 February 2013

The Hon Lara Giddings
Premier of Tasmania
Executive Building Level 11
15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Premier

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government issued a preliminary report on 24 January in which it recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution proceed in 2013. The Committee will present its final report in March.

The Committee's preliminary report highlighted the need for engagement between the Commonwealth and state governments on a proposed set of words for a change to Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution to remove uncertainty around the capacity of the Commonwealth to directly fund local government. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the relevant Commonwealth Ministers negotiate with the state and territory governments to secure their support for a referendum proposal.

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"...the Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State or to any local government body formed by state or territory legislation on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit."

In responding to the preliminary report the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, stated that the report now provides the words for any constitutional change.

I know that you have expressed reservations about the implications of changing the present funding relationship and the possibility for direct funding to have potential unintended consequences, however, I would urge that you support the wording in the interests of stable and certain funding flows to local government from Commonwealth Government.

In my earlier letter to you dated 18 December 2012 I stressed the importance of achieving a constitutional change to remove uncertainty around the issue of direct funding and I now urge you to engage constructively with Minister Crean and his colleagues on the proposed wording. I also ask that you engage with the president of your state local government association **on the implications** for your jurisdiction if direct federal funding of local government could no longer continue.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

12 February 2013

The Hon Colin Barnett MLA
Premier of Western Australia
1 Parliament Place
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Premier

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government issued a preliminary report on 24 January in which it recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution proceed in 2013. The Committee will present its final report in March.

The Committee's preliminary report highlighted the need for engagement between the Commonwealth and state governments on a proposed set of words for a change to Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution to remove uncertainty around the capacity of the Commonwealth to directly fund local government. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the relevant Commonwealth Ministers negotiate with the state and territory governments to secure their support for a referendum proposal.

A sticking point in the past, which has hampered discussions with the states, has been the actual words of any constitutional change to be proposed by the Federal Government. The Committee has now settled on the following words for an amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution:

"...the Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State or to any local government body formed by state or territory legislation on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit."

I note that in "The Australian" newspaper on 26 November last year you were reported as saying you would support (*constitutional recognition for local government*) only "so long as it was made clear that local government was a function of State Government."



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

12 February 2013

The Hon Ted Baillieu MP
Premier of Victoria
Level 1, 1 Treasury Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Premier

The Federal Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government issued a preliminary report on 24 January in which it recommended that a referendum on the financial recognition of local government in the Commonwealth Constitution proceed in 2013. The Committee will present its final report in March.

The Committee's preliminary report highlighted the need for engagement between the Commonwealth and state governments on a proposed set of words for a change to Section 96 of the Commonwealth Constitution to remove uncertainty around the capacity of the Commonwealth to directly fund local government. Specifically, the Committee recommended that the relevant Commonwealth Ministers negotiate with the state and territory governments to secure their support for a referendum proposal.

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"...the Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State or to any local government body formed by state or territory legislation on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit."

In responding to the preliminary report the Commonwealth Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Simon Crean MP, stated that the report now provides the words for any constitutional change.

In my earlier letter to you dated 18 December 2012 I stressed the importance of achieving a constitutional change to remove uncertainty around the issue of direct

funding and I now urge you to engage constructively with Minister Crean and his colleagues on the proposed wording.

Your letter of 5 February 2013 indicates that your Government does not support the Expert Panel's proposal for financial recognition and doubts that direct funding would provide a solution to the financial sustainability of the sector. I appreciate your suggestion of a National Partnership Agreement to support affected local government programs, but local government seeks a permanent solution to the problem, which we are confident would enhance rather than adversely affect local-state government relations.

I also ask that you engage with the president of your state local government association on the wording and the implications for your jurisdiction if direct federal funding of local government could no longer continue.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis
President