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Stephen Harding

26<sup>th</sup> July 2002

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Economics, Finance & Public Administration  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Council I would like to submit a preliminary expression of interest in relation to the Committee's Inquiry into Local Government and Cost Shifting.

Some of the areas that Council will be addressing in its submission are the additional costs that have been imposed on Local Government as a result of Legislation where no financial compensation has been paid.

In particular in areas such as National Competition Policy. Local Government has been required to implement all the necessary changes, however, none of the compensation paid to the States has flowed through to Local Government in New South Wales.

In addition, Council's submission will address matters where the State Government has not only transferred responsibility and functions but also the very substantial liability which goes with those functions, especially in relation to disposal of on-site waste water. Other areas that will be addressed in this submission include:

- Changes to the Local Government Act 1993.
- The State Emergency Rescue Management Act 1989.

- Rural Fires Act 1997.
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
- And a number of other areas currently being identified and researched.

Council will be providing the Committee with more detailed information in support of its submission in the near future.

Yours faithfully,

S J Harding  
**Acting General Manager**