

Coonabarabran:

20-22 John Street
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

PO Box 191
Coonabarabran NSW 2357

ABN: 63 348 671 239



Calls from within Shire
1300 795 099

Calls from outside Shire area
Coonabarabran:
02 6849 2000

Coolah: 02 6378 5000

Fax: 02 6842 1337

Email:
info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au

Coonabarabran - Coolah - Dunedoo - Baradine - Binnaway - Mendooran

Please address all mail to:
The General Manager

Please refer enquiries to:

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6 December 2012

Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the
Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: jsclg@aph.gov.au

Dear Glenn

In April 2011 Warrumbungle Shire Council passed a resolution to declare its support for Constitutional Change in relation to the financial recognition of Local Government (Resolution 344). Financial recognition is seen as an important mechanism to enable direct funding from the Federal Government to Local Government.

The certainty of direct Federal funding to Local Government is essential to ensure funding programs like 'Roads to Recovery' can continue to meet the needs of our local communities and ensure the provision of local services and infrastructure. 'Roads to Recovery' has been an important program for our Shire, enhancing both economic capacity and the safety of our rural and regional roads. Direct funding from the Federal to Local Government level enables Councils to respond quickly and effectively to local issues. It also has potential benefits such as greater local accountability, greater transparency, less bureaucracy and shorter timeframes for funding being received.

As such, Warrumbungle Shire Council supports an amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution to read "Parliament may grant assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory".

Warrumbungle Shire Council encourages the call for all political parties to support a referendum in 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve financial recognition. To maximise the chance of the success of the referendum, and to support an informed choice by the general public voting in the referendum, Council also requests the referendum be held at a time which maximises its chance of success, and furthermore, that a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign be conducted prior to the referendum to inform the public about the Constitution, how to change it and about the question being asked.

Yours sincerely

Peter Shinton
Mayor

Steve Loane
General Manager