

Submission Number: 135
Date Received: 17/01/2013



Ref: F13/50, D13/283
DLR.jcl

11 January 2013

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

Dear Mr Worthington

**RE: SUBMISSION ON REPORT OF EXPERT PANEL ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION**

On behalf of Kempsey Shire Council, I would like to submit that the pre-conditions set out in the Expert Panel's report are essential prerequisites that must be met before any constitutional referendum is held.

The ability to have bipartisan support at all levels is seen as essential to a positive consideration of the recognition of local government. Equally, there needs to be funding for putting the case for change. A referendum should not be held until these pre-conditions are met.

The ability to have certainty around financial support of local government is crucial in providing local government certainty into the future with its operations. As such, the referendum needs to be held in circumstances that maximise the chance of success.

I thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Yours sincerely

David Rawlings
GENERAL MANAGER