



**Shire of Derby /
West Kimberley**

SHIRE OF DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY

P.O. Box 94, DERBY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6728
ABN 99 934 203 062
Telephone: (08) 9191 0999 Facsimile: (08) 9191 0998
Email: sdwk@sdwk.wa.gov.au Web: www.sdwk.wa.gov.au

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Submission Number: 20
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OUR REF.

YOUR REF.

GC:EP
GS/4

018306

20th November, 2012

Mr. Glenn Worthington,
Secretary,
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional
Recognition of Local Government,
Parliament House,
P.O. Box 6021,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2600

Dear Mr. Worthington,

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The above issue is one which is firmly supported by the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley and Council formally endorsed the following points at its Ordinary Meeting on 31st March, 2011:-

- The financial recognition and inclusion of local government in the Australian Constitution in order that the Federal Government have the power to fund local government directly.

(We note and support amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution to read "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 sees fit." include local government).

- A referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve that recognition.
- A call on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to achieve this recognition.

Council needs to have certainty of funding to assist in future planning without the spectre of discontinuance over programmes such as Roads to Recovery.

It is recognised that bipartisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to succeed and Council supports the conduct of a referendum at a time which maximises its best chance of success.

The True Kimberley

Council is also supportive of 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. Voters need solid fact upon which to base their votes.

Australia has yet to follow the lead of other nations and recognise within its Constitution the roles and functions of local government. Whilst we are proactive on other issues, such recognition has met with failure on two previous occasions (over almost 30 years) and in view of the significant and increasingly important role we play, it is well past time this was reversed.

Yours faithfully,

Gary Clark,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER