

Crookwell Shire Council

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House of representatives Standing Committee on
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

Submission No: **20**

Date Received: **17/7/02**

Secretary: **Burdell**

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

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to the Inquiry into Cost Shifting onto Local Government.

The following comments are made for consideration in relation to that inquiry:

- there are numerous examples of State Government implementing legislation which has been a reaction to urban/metropolitan circumstances or issues, and which are a small scale impact on rural communities. In this regard the implementation costs association for rural local government areas often outweighs any "benefit" – examples; EPA Regulations – stormwater, waste water, Companion Animals legislation, Parking Policing, Planning – REP's, SEP's, RFS hazard identification areas, etc.

In some of these cases the State Government has provided limited initial funds, however, same is rarely adequate and not supported by ongoing funding.

- it is understood that the NSW State Government is the only State that has not passed on National Competition Policy funding provided by the Federal Government. The NCP has had a significant impact on local government, however, it has not been supported financially. It would seem that this may also apply to GST funding.
- another area of concern is the impact that decision/policies relating to Statutory bodies have on local government. Many decision/policies are formulated without

consultation with local government,, yet the implementation/financial impact is borne by local government and their communities-examples; NSW Rural Fire Services/Fire Brigade increasing contributions above Council rate pegging limits, Planning NSW creating regulations that do not reflect rural issues etc.

In addition to the above it should be noted that it is necessary that all tiers of government need to meet to determine what services are to be provided, which tier of government will provide those services and then match same with an appropriate funding mechanism.

The opportunity to contribute to this inquiry is appreciated.

Yours faithfully



B Wilkinson
General Manager