



Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
Department of House of Representatives PO Box 6012
Parliament House
Canberra. ACT 2600
Australia.

ie

16.2.13

Dear Secretary,

As a former Shire Councilor and now a ratepayer in the Baw Baw Shire I wish to make a submission to your Committee on the question of Constitutional Recognition of Local Government. I note that most local Councils are supporting this referendum. They have been encouraged to think they will get more money from the Federal Government.

Local Councils have been pressured by COAG and in Victoria by The MAV. COAG was funded to present the “yes” case only, and it is controlled by the Prime Minister anyway. The MAV is heavily committed to the policies of Agenda 21, a centralist orientated entity.

This referendum question is another grab for more power to the Federal Government.

What we do not need in a country as big and diverse as Australia is an all powerful central government. We should have seen enough of the disastrous results from centralized all powerful governments in the 20th century to make us careful that the same thing does not happen here.

The principle of subsidiary should be maintained (even senator Doug Cameron agrees with this).

The fiscal imbalance for State and Shire Councils should be handled by a devolution of taxes.

Yours sincerely,
D.J. Auchterlonie (Don)