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21 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](mailto:jsclg@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Worthington,

I refer to your invitation to make a submission in relation to the Committee's Terms of Reference on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

Blacktown City Council has considered a number of reports on the campaign for constitutional recognition for local government. It most recently considered this issue at its meeting held on 18 May 2011, and resolved as follows:

*'That Blacktown City Council declares its support for financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund local government directly and also for inclusion of local government in any new Preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed, and calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.'*

Council welcomes this opportunity for local government and members of communities around Australia to provide comments to your committee on this important amendment to the Australian Constitution.

Councils rely upon funding certainty in relation to major infrastructure programs such as the successful Roads to Recovery program. From the extensive discussion and research on this issue it is paramount that Australia's national government has the necessary constitutional power in order to be able to continue to serve local government across Australia equitably and in the national interest.

A simple amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution is supported with the addition the words '**or to any local government body**' to the power of parliament under Section 96 to grant financial assistance to any state. Ideally, a referendum would be held following a nationally funded constitutional awareness campaign with the referendum vote taken at a time that maximises its success.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Council's Director Finance and Corporate Strategy,

~~Yours faithfully,~~

Ron Moore

~~General Manager~~