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Reference: 13.3.01 ALGA

24 December 2012

Mr Glenn Worthington  
Joint Select C'tt Constitutional Recognition  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Submission Number: 105  
Date Recieved: 27/12/2012



Email: [jsclg@aph.gov.au](mailto:jsclg@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Worthington

**RE: Recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution**

I write with reference to the above wish to make a submission to the committee on behalf of the North Burnett Regional Council.

Our Council has and continues to fully support the Australian Local Government Association stance on constitutional recognition, particularly financial recognition.

Council considered the matter of support for Constitutional recognition at the General meeting of 18 October 2011 with the following being adopted:

*Cr PW Francis moved and Cr KS Wendt OAM BEM seconded: That North Burnett Regional Council support Constitutional Recognition for Local Government through financial recognition and note Council's support for ALGA position.*  
**CARRIED**

The need to continue direct funding arrangements from the Federal Government to Local Government is paramount to our Council. For example, the Roads 2 Recovery programme has been an extremely successful programme that has delivered much needed infrastructure to our region. The certainty of funding that Constitutional Recognition will bring will ensure that programmes such as Roads 2 Recovery can continue without threat of legal challenge.

An amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution so that it would read "Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or **local government body formed by or under law of a state or territory**" would be the supported wording for any changes.

Council believes that the bi-partisan approach to this issue is the best way to achieve success in a referendum. It has been pleasing to hear both aspects of the Australian political spectrum indicate their support for this recognition and it is Council's sincerest wish that this bi-partisan approach continues.

*Address all correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer*

Our Council would support the timing of a referendum that would maximise the chances of success. Council acknowledges the cost of a referendum and would not like to see these funds wasted by holding a referendum at a time that may diminish any positive mood for change.

Finally, Council supports a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign to inform the public about our Constitution, how to change it, and about the question that would be posed in any referendum. Our Council has financially contributed to the Queensland Local Government Association Constitutional Recognition campaign to indicate not only our philosophical support but also our financial support for this much needed reform of the constitution. Council will also continue to canvass and promote these changes to our own community.

Thank you for the opportunity to put our thoughts and comments forward to your committee.

On behalf of the Mayor and Councillors, I am please to offer you and or representatives of your committee an invitation to visit our region. of this office can be contacted on to assist should you be in a position to accept our invitation. If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully

MJP Pitt  
Chief Executive Officer

