



29 November 2012

Mr Glenn Worthington  
Secretary  
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Worthington

### **Constitutional Recognition of Local Government**

AlburyCity Council has recently been made aware of the establishment of the Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

AlburyCity is a strong supporter of the constitutional recognition of Local Government and to this end gave special consideration to this matter at a recent meeting. At its Ordinary Council meeting of 17 December 2012 AlburyCity resolved to reconfirm its support for constitutional recognition and to make a formal submission to the Joint Select Committee stating that AlburyCity:

- a. supports financial recognition;
- b. supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest;
- c. needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue;
- d. supports 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 a law of a state or territory";
- e. emphasises that bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success;
- f. supports the referendum being held at a time which maximises its chance of success; and
- g. supports 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. An informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote, which is based on facts rather than misinformation.

I trust this submission will be given due and proper consideration and wish you and the other members of the Joint Select Committee all the best in your endeavours.

If you or a Committee representative would like to clarify or discuss our submission further please contact Council's Acting General Manager, \_\_\_\_\_ at your convenience.

Yours faithfully

Cr Alice Glachan  
**Mayor Albury City**