

Submission Number: 146
Date Received: 23/01/2013



The Secretary

INQUIRY INTO CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Further centralisation of financial power in the Federal Government, of whatever political persuasion, with the inevitable accompanying remoteness of accountability, is not likely to be perceived as desirable by the voting public.

This is so especially in light of the present Federal Government's widely - perceived record of mismanagement of its policy initiatives over its last term of office.

That perception applies in particular to the failed or widely criticised financial management of federal funding of various policies.

That is an observation, drawn from the 'public record', and not a political comment.

For those reasons alone, Federal funding of local government bodies should not by-pass any state or territory governments

Thus, it is suggested that the foreshadowed referendum is likely to fail; and quite apart from the Australian voters' lengthy record of non- acceptance of referenda propositions.

Moreover, should the referendum go ahead, I wonder at first sight if the proposed amendment should not include the words in bold red below-

The Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State *or to any local government body formed by **or under** State or Territory Legislation* on such terms and conditions as the Parliament sees fit.

The views expressed above are mine and not necessarily those of the ANU or its College of Law

Yours sincerely

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