

Enquiries: Jenny Rintala – Governance Coordinator

Our Ref: E489



**Submission Number: 150**  
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A small, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'A' or similar character.

1 February 2013

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 Reform of Local Government**

The Council at its meeting on 28 November 2012 resolved to support the recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution and in doing so supports the following:

- The Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest because local government is able to respond quickly and effectively to local issues.
- That Councils require certainty of funding to maintain local roads, infrastructure, services and facilities and enable the continuation of programs like Roads to Recovery and the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program
- An amendment to Section 98 of the Constitution to read as follows:  
*Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory.*
- That a referendum on the matter should be held at a time which maximises its chance of success.
- That bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum on the matter is to have the best chance of success.
- That a publicly-funded national education campaign be undertaken to inform the public about the importance of changing the Constitution to ensure that it reflects how Federation works in modern Australia.

Yours sincerely

**Tony McIlroy**  
**Chief Executive Officer**