




Submission Number: 06

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26 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

SUBMISSION – CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire wish to advise the Joint Parliamentary Committee that we support Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

On 27th April 2011 Council passed a resolution to support Constitutional Recognition (copy attached).

The Shire supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest. The Shire needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue.

The Shire also 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". Bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success.

We supports the referendum being held at a time which maximises its chance of success and also support 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.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Alan Hart
Acting Chief Executive Officer