



WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

12th of February 2013

Submission Number: 243
Date Received: 22/02/2013

AD0047

The Secretary
Joint Select Committee of
Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
House of Representatives
GPO Box 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Re: Submission to the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition
of Local Government**

The West Wimmera Shire Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Expert Panel on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government and supports the referendum to recognise local government in the Australian Constitution.

The West Wimmera Shire Council considered the subject matter at its last meeting of Council 20th December 2012 with Council resolving:

“That Council prepare a submission to the Federal Parliament Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional recognition of Local Government supporting constitutional recognition to Local Government and take steps to promote the push for Local Government recognition within the community of West Wimmera”.

West Wimmera Shire Council supports an amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution so that it would read: “Parliament may grant assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory’. Council is in favour of the Federal Government having the power to provide funding directly to local government and would appreciate a certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue.

All correspondence to:

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Council is aware that timing of the referendum and bi-partisan support are essential preconditions if a referendum is to have the best chance of success, and suggests a publically funded national awareness campaign to inform the public about the Constitution, how to change it and the question being asked before the referendum. An informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote, based on facts rather than misinformation.

Concluding the West Wimmera Shire Council strongly supports financial and constitutional recognition of the Local Government Sectors as a vital service provider and legitimate 3rd tier of Government. Council looks forward to the Expert Panels Contribution to this outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Crouch

Chief Executive Officer – West Wimmera Shire Council