

Parliament of Australia

Senate



Submission from Alison G Walpole

To Committee Secretary,  
Select Committee on the Reform of the Australia Federation  
PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT, 2600 Australia

This submission uses a selection of attached written information from August 2007 onward to expose the actions of elected government funded by commercial enterprise, Australian Government Departments and the Victorian State Government to introduce regionalism.

The process acknowledges development of the Council of Australian Governments and the Council for the Australian Federation to by pass control by elected government, Decisions made by appointed committees and co-opted members are not being exposed to public debate in the news media. These attachments include copy of advertisements in Wangaratta Chronicle which show how the Wangaratta Rural City Council was legally challenged and proved wanting in integrity in attempting to introduce an abattoir at Wangaratta. A situation covered by the Hume Regional Management Forum. This Forum funded by the Victorian Government is linked into a wider planning initiative undertaken across Victoria through Regional Development Victoria.

The minutes of Wangaratta Rural City Council 20th July 2010 record page 16 "The Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities project is a major planning initiative of the Hume Regional Management Forum. It involves determining how catchments (or sub regions) can strategically plan and co-operate over such matters as land use planning, delivery of services, development of infrastructure and protection of the environment while addressing skills, lifestyle and climate change influence."  
page 17 "It is anticipated the regional plans emanating from this process will form the basis for investment and interaction by State and Federal Governments under the new Regional Development Australia/Regional Development Victoria structure. The recently released State Government blueprint for rural and regional Victoria entitled "Ready for Tomorrow" has a direct link to regional plans and is the first tangible manifestation of their importance on future government investment decisions." "Ready for Tomorrow" strategic plans are based on the assumption changes to Acts of Parliament not yet introduced to parliamentary scrutiny will be enacted.

These actions fail to acknowledge Local Government is not recognised in the Commonwealth Government constitution and lacks clarification of State and Federal Government powers and financial commitments. The Commonwealth of Australia Government is a government created by a Federation Of independent State Governments. The Victorian State Government blueprint "Ready for Tomorrow" became operational on 1st July 2010. There is an urgent need for Local Government to be recognised in the Australian Commonwealth Government constitution as recommended by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Alison G Walpole