



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS, FINANCE
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Cost Shifting Inquiry in Queensland

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will be holding public hearings into local government and cost shifting in Queensland on 11-13 March 2003.

The Committee would like to hear the views of representatives of local government on the future of local government in terms of its relationship with the State and Federal Governments. The Committee is interested in focussing on solutions for the future.

Much of the discussion at the hearings will focus on the key issues and options presented in the Committee's discussion paper. The discussion paper and a questionnaire can be found at the Committee's web site:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/efpa/localgovt/paper.htm>

When:

Where:

Tuesday, 11 March 2003

9.00 am to 1.00 pm (round table)
2.00 pm to 4.00 pm (open forum)

Noosa - Council Chambers, Noosa Town Council

Wednesday, 12 March 2003

10.00 am to 1.00 pm (round table)

Longreach - Fairmount Room, Longreach Shire Council

Thursday, 13 March 2003

9.00 am to 12.00 noon (round table)

Townsville – Council Chambers, Townsville City Council

Are you interested in providing evidence to the Committee at one of the hearings? If so, please contact:

Susan Cardell, Inquiry Secretary

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House Economics Committee:

Chairman: Mr David Hawker MP

Deputy Chair: Ms Anna Burke MP

Members:

Mr Anthony Albanese MP	Mr Peter King MP
Mr David Cox MP	Mr Gary Nairn MP
Ms Teresa Gambaro MP	Hon Alex Somlyay MP
Mr Alan Griffin MP	Dr A Southcott MP



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**INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND COST SHIFTING**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government has asked the Committee to inquire into:

Cost shifting onto local government by state governments and the financial position of local government. This will include an examination of:

1. Local government's current roles and responsibilities.
2. Current funding arrangements for local government, including allocation of funding from other levels of government and utilisation of alternative funding sources by local government.
3. The capacity of local government to meet existing obligations and to take on an enhanced role in developing opportunities at a regional level including opportunities for councils to work with other councils and pool funding to achieve regional outcomes.
4. Local government expenditure and the impact on local government's financial capacity as a result of changes in the powers, functions and responsibilities between state and local governments.
5. The scope for achieving a rationalisation of roles and responsibilities between the levels of government, better use of resources and better quality services to local communities.
6. The findings of the Commonwealth Grants Commission Review of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* of June 2001, taking into account the views of interested parties as sought by the Committee.

The inquiry is to be conducted on the basis that the outcomes will be budget neutral for the Commonwealth

