



Wellington Shire Council's submission to the Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government – January 2013

Wellington Shire Council (Victoria) wishes to provide the following comments in relation to the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government:

1. Wellington Shire Council supports local government being recognised in any preamble or statement of values in the Constitution. The recognition of local government as an important tier of government, in the Constitution, would provide recognition at the highest level of government of the role that local government plays in the community.
2. Wellington Shire Council supports an amendment to the Constitution to appropriately resolve the legality of funding directly from the federal government to local government when it is appropriate.
3. Wellington Shire Council has no comment to make on any proposal to address citizens' rights to democracy in the Constitution, other than to say that the Victorian Constitution has a process to deal with this now.
4. Wellington Shire Council supports a reference in the Constitution to the desirability of cooperation between the Commonwealth, States and local government.
5. Wellington Shire Council calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve recognition of local government.