



REFERENCE: S/00022 S/00034
ENQUIRIES TO: MAYOR ROBERT BRIA



**City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters**

21 November 2012

Mr Thomas Gregory
Committee Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: jsclg@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Gregory

The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters represents a community of approximately 36,400 citizens. The Council is democratically elected under the Local Government Act 1999 (SA) to represent and provide a number of services, facilities, programs and infrastructure.

At its meeting held on 4 April 2011, the Council resolved to support the option of financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

This Council and its community relies on funding from the Federal Government for roads under the Roads-to-Recovery Program and the Council is proud to support and indeed have participated in Nation Building under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program. Both of these Programs have delivered funding to our community in an efficient and effective manner, through the direct transfer of funds from the Federal Government.

As you are aware, recent High Court judgments have raised considerable uncertainty regarding direct funding to Local Government from the Federal Government. This uncertainty is creating a lack of confidence in the types of partnerships which Local Government can forge with the Commonwealth.

As such, this Council 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."* This amendment would validate programs such as Roads-to-Recovery, without creating any broader capacity for the Commonwealth to legislate about Local Government. This Council values the relationship it has with the South Australian Government, however, is aware that State funding for Councils in South Australia, is the lowest per capita in the Nation.

This Council supports a referendum being held at a time most likely to achieve a successful result and recognises the current support from all political parties and independents in the Federal Parliament, is an important factor in giving a referendum the best chance of success.

Another key factor in the success of a referendum is likely to be the level of understanding in the community about the Australian Constitution, the role it plays in society today and how it can be amended. The Council supports a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign to support an informed vote in the community.

Finally, as a member of the Local Government Association of South Australia the Council supports its work and that of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), in representing Local Government on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Robert Bria
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

175 The Parade
Norwood 5067
South Australia
PO Box 204
Kent Town 5071

Tel 08 8366 4555
Fax 08 8332 6338

email:
townhall@
npsp.sa.gov.au

website:
www.npsp.sa.gov.au



Environmentally
Certified
AU850-EC
ISO 14001:2004

100% Australian
Made Recycled Paper