



Our Ref: PB:MS:LK

6<sup>TH</sup> February 2013

Joint Parliamentary Committee – Constitutional Recognition

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Constitutional Recognition for Local Government**

Southern Downs Regional Council considered the matter of constitutional recognition for local government at its general meeting held on 28 November 2012. Council resolved the support such recognition highlighting the following points:-

- Council supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest.
- Council needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue.
- 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".
- That bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success.
- Council supports the referendum being held at a time which maximizes its chance of success.
- Council supports a publicly funded national education and awareness campaign to inform the public about the Constitution, how to change it, and about the question being asked before the referendum. An informed voter is more likely to cast an informed vote, which is based on facts rather than misinformation.

Yours faithfully

Peter Blundell  
**Mayor**



**Southern Downs**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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