



Birthplace of Our Nation

7 February 2013
CAS-04541-KBGH

Submission Number: 180
Date Received: 11/02/2013



Mr Glen Worthington
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 Sir

Re: *Submission Supporting Constitutional Recognition of Local Government – Tenterfield Shire Council*

At its Ordinary Meeting of 19 December 2012, Council resolved that a submission supporting constitutional recognition be forwarded to the Joint Select Committee. This resolution was in support of previous Council Resolution 93/11 dated 23 February 2011 as follows:

- "(1) Tenterfield Shire Council declares its support for financial recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund local government directly and also for inclusion of local government in any new Preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed, and calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition; and*
- (2) That Council write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and their local Federal Member of Parliament to advise them of Council's support for recognition"*

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All correspondence should be addressed to:

**The General Manager
Tenterfield Shire Council**

247 Rouse Street (PO Box 214) TENTERFIELD NSW 2372

**Submission Supporting Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
– Tenterfield Shire Council** **7 February 2013**

As a large rural Shire Council, funding a big rural roads infrastructure budget, Tenterfield Shire Council fully supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the nation interest.

Tenterfield Shire Council needs this certainty of funding so that necessary programs such as *Roads to Recovery* can continue.

Tenterfield Shire Council also 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**".*

Bi-partisan support is seen as an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success.

Further, Tenterfield Shire Council supports the referendum being held at a time which maximises its chance of success and 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 sincerely

Peter ~~Petty~~
Mayor

Lotta Jackson
General Manager