



12 February 2013

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

Re. the proposed referendum:

In 1988 the The Australian voting public were asked the same question and wholeheartedly rejected the idea of a third level of government in Australia. I assume you are aware of this. I also assume you are aware that the results of many referendums in Australia have been a resounding NO. You would also be aware, I assume, that most referendums where the people voted no were thinly veiled attempts at increasing the power of the federal government. No small wonder the people voted no on these issues.

Our Australian Constitution recognises only two, I repeat, ONLY TWO levels of government, those being Federal and State. Being that the recognition of local councils as local government was rejected in 1988, then there IS no third level of government; the local government act is unlawful, and it is EXTREMELY DECEPTIVE to refer to local councils as local government.

The recognition of local councils as government, unless they were fundamentally restructured, would result in a technical and practical dictatorship, as currently there is no opposition and there are not two houses, these being the barest minimum required to provide some checks & balances against rogue administrations doing whatever they please.

I would also ask you to ponder these points: If local government is lawful, why is there any need for changes to the constitution? Vice versa, if the constitution needs to be changed to make local government lawful, then, quite obviously, local government is currently unlawful and no reference should be made to local councils as local government.

I wholeheartedly reject any recognition of local councils as government. And I request that you use the proper, lawful term at ALL times, that being LOCAL COUNCIL. It is what it is.

Let us instead strengthen our constitution so that it states very clearly the role of our governments, which is to act as SERVANTS AND EMPLOYEES of the sovereign people of Australia. And let us include the system of Citizen's Initiative and Referenda, which would bring REAL democracy to Australia instead of the elected dictatorship under which we the people currently suffer.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Hicks