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Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local
Government
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Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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Dear Sir

RE: CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

I take this opportunity to advise you that Murray Shire Council supports Constitutional Recognition for Local Government. This has been a long standing issue for Murray Shire Council and Local Government generally.

It should be noted that Council supports financial recognition of Local Government and the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding direct to Local Government where it is in the national interest.

One such program is the Roads to Recovery Program, which has been of great value to Local Government. However, the certainty of this program needs to be secured so that it can continue. Therefore, 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."

Obviously, if this referendum is to take place it would need bi-partisan support for the best chance of success. Timing will also be important so it needs to be held at a time that maximises the potential for success.

Council also 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.

I trust you will take Council's views into account in your deliberations.

Should you require further information, please contact the undersigned on

Yours sincerely

Greg Murdoch
General Manager

GJM