



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS, FINANCE  
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

## Inquiry into local government and cost shifting

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will hold a public hearing into local government and cost shifting in Alice Springs on Tuesday 5 November 2002.

The Committee welcomes the opportunity to hear the views of local government representatives during the National General Assembly of Local Government.

The Inquiry is examining local government's current roles and responsibilities, current and alternative funding arrangements, and the scope for achieving a rationalisation of roles and responsibilities between the levels of government. It is interested in achieving better use of resources and delivering better quality services to local communities.

**WHO:** House of Representatives Economics Committee

**WHAT:** Public hearing, inquiry into local government and cost-shifting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, 5 November 2002, 3.00pm to 5.30pm

**WHERE:** Garden Room, Alice Springs Town Council, Todd Street

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Are you interested in providing evidence to the Committee at the public hearing?

If so, please provide your contact details (name, designation, organisation, phone, and email) and a list of three issues you would like to cover to:

House Economics Committee Secretariat      tel: 02 6277 4587  
email: EFPA.Reps@aph.gov.au

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For further information on the inquiry:  
Susan Cardell, Inquiry Secretary      tel: 02 6277 2022  
email: Susan.Cardell.Reps@aph.gov.au

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House Economics Committee:

Chairman:                      Mr David Hawker MP

Deputy Chair:                Ms Anna Burke MP

Members:                      Mr Anthony Albanese MP      Mr Mark Latham MP  
   Ms Teresa Gambaro MP        Mr Gary Nairn MP  
   Mr Alan Griffin MP              Hon Alex Somlyay MP  
   Mr Peter King MP                Dr A Southcott MP



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INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
AND COST SHIFTING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government has asked the Committee to inquire into:

Cost shifting onto local government by state governments and the financial position of local government. This will include an examination of:

1. Local government's current roles and responsibilities.
2. Current funding arrangements for local government, including allocation of funding from other levels of government and utilisation of alternative funding sources by local government.
3. The capacity of local government to meet existing obligations and to take on an enhanced role in developing opportunities at a regional level including opportunities for councils to work with other councils and pool funding to achieve regional outcomes.
4. Local government expenditure and the impact on local government's financial capacity as a result of changes in the powers, functions and responsibilities between state and local governments.
5. The scope for achieving a rationalisation of roles and responsibilities between the levels of government, better use of resources and better quality services to local communities.
6. The findings of the Commonwealth Grants Commission Review of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* of June 2001, taking into account the views of interested parties as sought by the Committee.

The inquiry is to be conducted on the basis that the outcomes will be budget neutral for the Commonwealth.

