

REF: 2255003
 IEF:
 ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: Mr Brian Pidgeon 4688 6603



**TOOWOOMBA
 CITY COUNCIL**

01 March 2004

THE HONOURABLE
 IAN MACFARLANE MP
 MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
 PO BOX 777
 TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

Dear Mr Macfarlane,

Re Opposing the possible abolishing of the minimum component of the Financial Assistance Grant

I refer to the report from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration entitled "Rates and Taxes: A Fair Share for Local Government".

Recommendation 16 of the Report proposes an equalisation principle, which would abolish the minimum grant component of the Financial Assistance Grant from the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

At its Ordinary Meeting (24 February 2004), Council resolved to advise you of its opposition to the proposed abolishing of the minimum component of the Financial Assistance Grant for the following reasons:

- (i) The earlier report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission recommended the continuation of the minimum grant.
- (ii) Abolition of the minimum grant would disadvantage the ratepayers of Toowombomba because of the loss of a necessary source of funds.

Council supports other recommendations in the Report.

Council requests that you please keep this in mind when considering the report.

Yours faithfully

**BRIAN PIDGEON
 ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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