



PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE
ENQUIRIES

10/14/2
Mark W Johnston : smg

Submission Number: 15
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27 November 2012

Mr Glenn Worthington
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on the
Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601 jsclg@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Worthington,

RE: CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In anticipation of the Joint Select Committee calling shortly for submissions, Council wishes to advise as follows:

- Council supports financial recognition for local government. On 23 February, 2011 Council adopted the following resolution”

“That Central Goldfields 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.”

- Council supports the Federal Government having the power to be able to provide funding directly to local government where this is in the national interest;
- Council needs certainty of funding so that programs like Roads to Recovery can continue;
- 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”;
- Council believes that bi-partisan support is an essential precondition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success;
- Council supports the referendum being held at a time which maximises its chance of success;

- Council supports a publicity 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

Mark W Johnston
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER