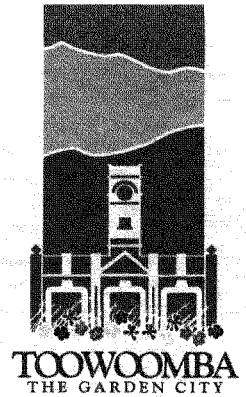
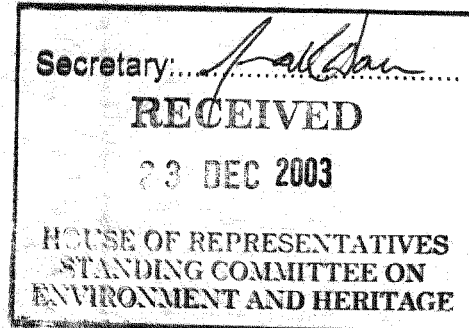


SUBMISSION NO. 155

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: Heather Green  
IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE: 2217629



15 December 2003

The Clerk Assistant (Committees)  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra NSW 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Inquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025**

I wish to advise that Toowoomba City Council endorses the submissions of both the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and the South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SEQROC) to the abovementioned enquiry. Both these submissions detail the issues that this Council considers to be relevant to our City and to the sustainability issues affecting all Australian cities.

The following key points pertain to the important issues that this Council would like to see the Commonwealth Government facilitating.

1. Policy and legislation:

The Federal Government's interest should be related to issues of national significance, rather than on specific issues as outlined in the discussion paper. These specific issues are best left to Local Governments, community groups and individuals. The Federal Government should focus on facilitating policy programs and legislation at the state and national level. Local Governments, through regional organisations and associations, need a process of providing positive feedback to the Federal Government on what is the most productive form of assistance.

2. Financial:

The Federal Government could utilise its broad financial and taxation powers to assist Local Governments, individuals, businesses, industry, and community groups with financial incentives. This would allow sustainability to be facilitated at the local level. Toowoomba City Council recently introduced a campaign, "Stop the Flow", to try to reduce water consumption. Part of the campaign included rebates for householders on the installation of water reduction devices. This sort of campaign funded federally could be far more successful if expanded to energy conservation as well as water conservation.

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The Office Of The Chief Executive

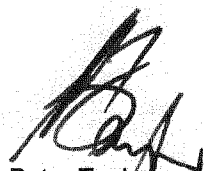
Telephone: (07) 4688 6603  
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3. Resourcing:

Toowoomba City Council has been limited in its land use and infrastructure planning and provisions, community planning and economic development due to lack of resources. Restricted capacity to resources issues does not ensure the best outcomes for a sustainable city. Current resources available as grants from State and Federal Governments have restricted the ability of Toowoomba City Council to achieve sustainability. For example, in 2002 Council did not renew a contract of employment for an environmental officer as State Government funding was not renewed. This officer was instrumental in raising awareness of sustainability issues and in bringing together industry and community groups to rejuvenate Toowoomba's creeks and waterways, this momentum has now been lost to a certain extent.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this important inquiry.

Yours faithfully



Peter Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer