



LIAS19

27 December 2012

Mr Glen Worthington  
Secretary  
Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Worthington

The City of Monash, at its meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2012, resolved to make a submission to the Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

On behalf of the Council, I make the following submission and urge the Select Committee to carefully consider the views of Local Government, in such a fundamentally important matter.

Council:

1. Declares its support for the financial recognition of Local Government in the Constitution and the Federal Government's ability to directly fund Local Government. It is in the best interests of local communities that Federal Governments have the unambiguous legal capacity to fund councils directly, in order to achieve national objectives. The Council supports the Australian Local Government Association's preference for a pragmatic and simple change to the Constitution (to section 96) to allow direct funding to continue. The form of financial recognition of Local Government proposed by the ALGA, which will not impact on the relationship between councils and State governments, has been endorsed by all State and Territory local government associations.
2. Supports the proposed amendment to Section 96 of the Constitution so that it reads *"Parliament may grant financial assistance to any state or local government body formed by or under a law of a state or territory."*
3. Believes that Local Government needs certainty of funding, so that national programs such as 'Roads To Recovery' can continue.

4. Reinforces its belief that bi-partisan support is an essential pre-condition if a referendum is to have the best chance of success.
5. Supports the timing of a referendum so that it has the best possible chance of success.
6. Supports a publicly-funded national education and awareness campaign about the Constitution, how to amend it and about the question being asked before the constitution.

The Council believes that any referendum question would not seek to undermine the powers of State governments, nor impede their ability to regulate or reform local government.

Yours sincerely

CR MICAELA DRIEBERG

Mayor