



AUSTRALIAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

19 May 2011

The Mayor of Shire of York
PO Box 22
YORK WA 6302

SHIRE OF YORK	
FILE: Ok. 168. 5	
OFFICER: rjnscba	INITIALS: [initials]
25 MAY 2011	
119802	
REFERENCED TO COUNCIL	
DATE: 20/6/11	INITIALS: [initials]

Dear Mayor

Constitutional Recognition of Local Government – Resolutions of Support from Councils

In February this year I wrote to the mayors of all councils asking them to pass resolutions in council chambers endorsing the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA's) position that a referendum be held by 2013 to change the Constitution to allow direct funding of local government bodies by the Commonwealth Government and also to include local government in any new Preamble to the Constitution, if one is proposed. I also asked councils to write to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and local Federal Members of Parliament to advise them of Council's support. The response to my letter has been very positive, and it is important that we continue to strongly advocate to the Government council support for the referendum.

Those councils which have passed resolutions have advised ALGA and we have acknowledged their actions in our weekly newsletter, *ALGA News*, and in our advocacy with the major political parties. I note, however, that your council has yet to advise us that you have considered a resolution.

Constitutional recognition will be one of the issues featured in the upcoming ALGA 2011 National General Assembly of Local Government, to be held in Canberra from 19-22 June. At that time I hope to be able to highlight directly to the Prime Minister, who will be attending the NGA, the level of support that exists within local government for the pragmatic and necessary change to the Constitution that ALGA is proposing.

I recognise that the business agenda of councils is extremely busy as we all try to address the needs of our communities, but I urge you, if you have not already done so, to make time to consider a resolution endorsing the ALGA proposal for constitutional recognition. The proposal is for a pragmatic change to allow the Commonwealth Government to continue to directly fund local government for initiatives the Parliament sees fit. For your convenience I have attached the draft text of a possible resolution.

I hope your council is able to express support for a change to the Constitution, aimed ultimately at ensuring that local communities get the services and infrastructure they need and deserve and I hope that you will also be able to join us in Canberra for the 2011 National General Assembly.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Genia McCaffery
President

