



Our ref: R09/0007 Out-21614

17 July 2013

Mr Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478

Dear Mr Hickey,

Constitutional Recognition of Local Government – payment of levies

This letter is to request that Ballina Shire Council reconsider its position and financially contribute to the Constitutional Recognition campaign. We note in previous correspondence with Local Government NSW that Ballina Shire has expressed its support of the referendum, but is reluctant to provide a financial contribution due to a perceived lack of political support.

Following the conversation yesterday between Mayor of Ballina, Cr David Wright, and Cr Rhoades to discuss the referendum, Cr Wright asked that we write to you and outline some key points about the campaign which we hope will assist in clarifying your council's position.

Research conducted by the National Campaign Team has indicated that the referendum is winnable, with two-thirds of respondents indicating that they would vote 'Yes' after receiving all the facts about the issue. This is extremely encouraging, and is the basis of the PR Toolkit that was distributed on Friday 12 July to all Councils that had paid their due levies.

In addition, the referendum has received bipartisan support, with it passing through the House of Representatives, 133-2, and the Senate, 46-8.

Of the 152 Councils in NSW, eight have decided not to contribute at this stage for various reasons, and we are now contacting them to reconsider. While we are extremely encouraged that 95 per cent of all NSW Councils have supported the campaign, this has amounted in a shortfall of just over \$360,000 when the Commonwealth's dollar-for-dollar matched funding is taken into consideration.

In fairness to all councils in NSW, we ask that Ballina Shire Council give strong consideration to reconsidering its position and financially contribute to the referendum campaign, especially given that each Council in Australia will directly benefit if Local Government is financially recognised in the Constitution.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to call either one of us to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Cr Keith Rhoades.

Cr Keith Rhoades, AFSM
Joint President
0408 256 405

Handwritten signature of Cr Ray Donald.

Cr Ray Donald
Joint President
0438 699 910

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