



AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale
on Wednesday, 8 June 2011

MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE

c-MM1 Australian Local Government Association – Request for Support for a Referendum to Change the Constitution

Leadership

Reference: 102/5, 203/1.1 and 203/1
Responsible Officer: Manager Governance

PURPOSE

The Australian Local Government Association has written to Council requesting its support to call for a referendum to 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.

REPORT

Councillors would remember that last year at the National General Assembly held in Canberra the issue of constitutional recognition of local government was discussed and that there was great support for this to happen both at the Assembly and at this Council.

Constitutional recognition will be one of the key issues featured in the upcoming Australian Local Government Association 2011 National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra from Sunday 19 to Wednesday 22 June 2011.

Councillor Arkwright, the General Manager and I will be attending the National General Assembly and as the Prime Minister of Australia will be attending, it will be important that the Association be able to demonstrate as much support as possible in relation to these matters.

I therefore request that Council consider supporting the recommendations detailed below.

ATTACHMENTS

Correspondence from the Australian Local Government Association dated 19 May 2011.

.....Cont'd



AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale
on Wednesday, 8 June 2011

MAYORAL MINUTE

.....Cont'd

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council support the position of the Australian Local Government Association for financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund Local Government directly.
 2. THAT Council support the position of the Australian Local Government Association for the inclusion of local government in any new Preamble to the constitution, if one is proposed.
 3. THAT representation be made to all Political parties seeking inclusion of local government in any new Preamble to the constitution, if one is proposed.
 4. THAT the Australian Local Government Association be advised of Council's support in recommendations 1 to 3 above.
-

Ken Halstead
Mayor

8 June 2011

ATTACHMENT



19 May 2011

The Mayor of Wingecarribee Shire Council
PO Box 141
MOSS VALE NSW 2577

Dear Mayor

COPY SENT

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL		
Classification:	MAILIN	
Doc. No.		
File No.	203/1/2011	
23 MAY 2011		
OFFICER	ACTION	INFO
Ed Johnson	✓	
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.

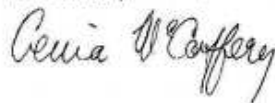
Those councils which have passed resolutions have advised ALGA and we have acknowledged their actions in our weekly newsletter, ALGA News, and in our advocacy with the major political parties. I note, however, that your council has yet to advise us that you have considered a resolution.

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