

BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Submission for Ordinary Meeting held on 28 June 2013

TITLE:	MAYORAL MINUTE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT LEGISLATION	DOC REF: Item
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REPORT BY:	Wulf Reichler Mayor	DATE: 13 June 2013
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IPR REFERENCE:

PURPOSE:

To advise Council of the 14 September referendum on the Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

CONTENT:

A referendum will be held at the upcoming September 14 Federal election.

A high court decision ruled the Federal Government cannot directly fund Local Government, which puts at risk Federal Government funding across the Central Coast. If Constitutional Recognition is supported, this will allow for direct Federal funding of Local Government. Federal Government funding is such a vital part of any Council's income e.g. Roads to Recovery & FAG.

Local Government is the only level of government in Australia that is not financially recognised in the Australian Constitution and our income funding is limited in relation to the services we are expected to provide to our community.

The Constitutional Recognition of Local Government will enable the Federal Government to have the capacity to fund Councils directly to achieve national objectives at a local level, such as major infrastructure projects and job creation ventures.

For the referendum to be successful there needs to be a majority of 'yes' votes from voters in a majority of states. By voting yes in the referendum, residents are voting to continue to access this funding, which contributes to many major projects in our local areas.

CONSULTATION:

Nil

GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

- 1. Council prepare a marketing campaign to encourage Brewarrina residents to vote for Federal recognition of local government in the Referendum to be with the Federal Election in September 2013;**

2. A report be brought back to Council identifying the draft campaign material;
3. A letter be written to the Premier of NSW, the Hon Barry O'Farrell, asking him to support the Federal recognition of local government, as he promised in the last state election campaign;
4. A letter be written to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Don Page, asking him to support Federal recognition of local government as he stated on Stateline in September 2011; and
5. Copies of both letters be sent to the State Member for Barwon, Hon Kevin Humphries, asking for his support in this matter.

Wulf Reichler
Mayor