

Constitutional Recognition of Local Government

On Friday the 30th September, 2011 at 12 md I attended a Meeting at the Charles Sturt University, Dubbo. On the way in I ran into Glen Schuil, who helped me find the venue and get into the meeting.

The Panel consisting of 3 Men appointed by the Prime Minister to submit a Report by the 22nd November 2011

Mr Jim Spigelman (chair), Mr. Tony Windsor, Mr. Greg Mc Lean.

The purpose of the Meeting was to get submissions from all the Councils, about 60 attended from all over NSW from as far as Sydney, Brewarrina & Armidale.

Brewarrina Shire Council on the 16th June 2011 submitted the following
Re ALGA—Constitutional Recognition of Local Government.

Resolution 166/11 Brewarrina Shire Council declares its support for financial recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution so that the Federal Government has the power to fund Local government directly and also for inclusion of local government in any new Preamble to the Constitution if one is proposed, and calls on all political parties to support a referendum by 2013 to change the Constitution to achieve this recognition.

The Panel kept telling us they were here to listen to suggestions on how to get Constitutional Recognition of Local Government not their input.

The General consensus was that we have to go to a Referendum and only change Constitutional Section 96 to include Local Government.....Keep it simple.....Keep away from Section 51.... Keep straight forward, NO PREAMBLE..... Two (2) previous Referendums failed in 1974 and 1998... We need more FUNDS from the Feds or Rates will just have to go up. Councils cannot keep going on the miserable monies it gets now..... Councils to market the Referendum not the Panel.....Public supported funded campaign..... Councils to put out info on proposed Constitutional Recognition in local papers etc.... Referendum should be single and voters can understand it.....

No other Community Consultation needed in NSW by panel was stated by the Chair.

Meeting closed at 1.40pm.

Report submitted by Councilor John Burke.

John M Burke