INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Organisation: Tamworth Regional Council

Name: Mr Paul Bennett

Position: General Manager

Date Received: 21/09/2010

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Mr Robert Furolo MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
NSW Parliament
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY   NSW   2000

Dear Mr Furolo

INQUIRY INTO THE PUBLIC FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Ref: SMB/AMK/ SF3310

Your invitation to make a submission in respect of the Inquiry into the Public Funding of Local Government Election Campaigns was considered at a recent meeting of the Council.

I have been directed to advise that Council does not have a firm position in relation to a model for the public funding of Local Government elections in New South Wales. However, it is Council's view that should a candidate's campaign for election to local government be subject to public funding, any funds provided to the candidate should be capped at a maximum amount based on a monetary amount per primary vote recorded by the candidate and that the system and process for providing public funding be open, accountable and transparent.

Any move to introduce a campaign public funding model for local government which would be directly funded by local government is not supported by Council on the basis of the significant demand already placed upon Council's resources for what is considered to be higher priority community services and facilities.   Council acknowledges the difficulties associated with introducing a fair and equitable public funding model which provides for the equality of access to all candidates for election as a councillor.

Yours sincerely

Paul Bennett
GENERAL MANAGER

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