

**Submission  
No 27**

**INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTION CAMPAIGNS**

**Organisation:** Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and  
Cabinet

**Name:** Mr Ross Woodward

**Position:** Chief Executive, Local Government

**Date Received:** 28/09/2010

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Mr Robert Furolo MP  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Email: [electoralmatters.committee@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:electoralmatters.committee@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Furolo

I am writing in reply to your letter of 18 August 2010 inviting the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters in regard to its Inquiry into the Public Funding of Local Government Election Campaigns.

I have carefully considered the Issues Paper accompanying your letter and the Committee's report titled "Public Funding of Election Campaigns" (March 2010).

In this regard I note:

1. Recommendation 51(b) of the Committee's report, which states-

*"... the issue of public funding for local government be re-visited after the new public funding system has been introduced and tested at the state level"; and*

2. The submissions made by the NSW Electoral Commissioner, Mr Colin Barry to the Committee's earlier inquiry in relation to public funding of local government election campaigns and which are noted in the report referred to above, in particular:

*"... that given the limited timeframe for the Committee's Inquiry and the complexity of issues relating to local government 'it might be wise to allow any new scheme recommended for State parties and candidates to be implemented before any final recommendation in relation to local government is made'." (paragraph 1019); and*

*"... any deliberation on recommendations would be advantaged if there was an opportunity to review the implementation of a political finance scheme at the State election" (paragraph 10.20).*



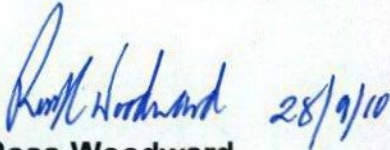
The Division shares the views expressed by the Electoral Commissioner to the earlier inquiry in regard to the timing of the consideration of the issue of public funding of local government election campaigns.

The Division also notes that the limited timeframe provided for the lodging of submissions in relation to the present inquiry does not afford the Division with sufficient time in which to gather and assess the information necessary for it to provide a considered response to the questions raised in the issues paper, nor more generally, to address other issues falling within the scope of the inquiry.

If it has not already done so, the Division would encourage the Committee to seek the views of the Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales in relation to this matter given that those organisations are the peak industry bodies representing councils in NSW.

Thank you for notifying the Division of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely



**Ross Woodward**  
**Chief Executive, Local Government**  
**A Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet**