



Hawkesbury City Council

ordinary  
meeting  
mayoral  
minute

date of meeting: 30 July 2019

location: council chambers

time: 6:30 p.m.



**ORDINARY MEETING**

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**SECTION 2 – Mayoral Minutes**

**Item: 144                    MM - Recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution - (80093)**

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**REPORT:**

A referendum on the recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution was proposed for the Federal election to be held in 2013. However a change of leadership in the Government of the day and the resulting change in the election date meant that the referendum did not proceed.

On that occasion, the then Government had well advanced plans to support the proposal, including:

- The support of both an Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government and a Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
- Draft wording of the proposed changes to section 96 of the Constitution and associated legislation
- Funding allocated in forward budget estimates to:
  - The Australian Electoral Commission to conduct the referendum
  - The then Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport to undertake a national education campaign to provide information on the referendum process.

Given the current circumstances of:

- General support in both houses of parliament
- The existing proposal for a referendum at the next Federal election – thereby minimising cost to the electorate.

The time is right for the Commonwealth Government to complete the business of securing recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution. The work undertaken in the lead up to the 2013 proposal will further reduce the cost and workload in progressing this important reform.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council work with Local Government NSW, other Councils and Local Government bodies to progress a Referendum at the next Commonwealth Election to secure the recognition of Local Government in the Australian Constitution.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

**oooO END OF MAYORAL MINUTE Oooo**



# ordinary meeting

# end of mayoral minute

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