



ALGA MAIL

ITEM No:

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FILE No:

THE HON SIMON CREAN MP

**Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government
Minister for the Arts**

Reference: C12/1603

31 OCT 2012

Mayor Felicity-Anne Lewis
President
Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor *Felicity*

I am writing in response to the letter of 23 August 2012 from the former President, Ms Genia McCaffery, regarding constitutional recognition of local government. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and Cr McCaffery on 23 August 2012, and look forward to working with you in your role as President of ALGA. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As you may be aware, I introduced a notice of motion into Parliament on 11 October 2012 proposing the establishment of a Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government. This constitutes the Government's response to the Expert Panel's report. The motion included the Terms of Reference and Committee membership for the Committee. You will note that ALGA's views were considered in the drafting of the Terms of Reference.

I agree there will be education costs associated with a referendum. This will be considered by Government following the receipt of the Joint Select Committee's report.

I encourage ALGA to make a submission to the Joint Select Committee's inquiry and to continue its good work in promoting this important reform to Australia's system of local government.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely


SIMON CREAN