



File/Our Ref: 51.210

28th February, 2008

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Assistant National Secretary
Greg McLean

Dear Sir,

**Re: Local Government Funding – Assessing Local Government
Revenue Raising Capacity**

I am writing in response to the Productivity Commission's draft research report into local government funding.

As you would be aware the Australian Services Union (ASU) was the only Union, organisation representing employees to place a submission before the Commission.

You may also be aware that the ASU's past submissions to similar inquiries, including the Hawker Inquiry into Local Government Funding, along with our participation at the Hawker Inquiry Round Table, held as part of the finalisation of this process. The current report of the Productivity Commission raises a number of issues around local government funding, including the ability for local government to provide its own funding support basis.

The ASU believes there is a unique range of issues associated with local government funding and that local government's functions may vary from State to State and region to region. In other words local government can often be providing the same functions to the community that State Government or indeed National Governments may be undertaking, however local government does so on the basis of it being only a service provider after provision of monies from the State or Commonwealth Government for that service or raising its own money to provide that service to the community.

Accordingly, the ASU would seek to be involved in any ongoing discussions and finalisations of papers, or ongoing consultations that may take place with the industry around the finalisation of the local government report, and/or for that matter actions of the Government of the day.

Yours faithfully,

Greg McLean
Assistant National Secretary

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