



**THE HON SIMON CREAN MP**

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

Reference: C12/773

Mr Greg McLean OAM  
Assistant National Secretary  
Australian Services Union  
Level 8  
321 Pitt St  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

21 DEC 2012

Dear Mr McLean 

I am writing to bring you up to date following your letter of 27 April 2012 relating to the issue of Local Government "body politic versus body corporate" and the ability for New South Wales local governments to access to Federal Government funding under state legislation. I understand that you have had a number of discussions with my office and the offices of the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Indigenous Health, and the Attorney-General, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, regarding this issue.

It is essential that all states and territories receive fair and equitable access to Australian Government funding. Following your initial discussions with my office, my Department worked across government to highlight the possible issues relating to "body corporate versus body politic" when developing future program guidelines and to note in particular the potential impact on New South Wales.

I have also formally written to my Cabinet colleagues bringing this matter to their attention so that they are aware of the possible unintended consequences of excluding entities that are body politic of the state or territory.

It is anticipated that, following the exhaustive consultation process, this issue will be closely monitored across portfolios in the future.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

**SIMON CREAN**