



Our reference: GCL:ATR:P/07/01

26 July 2004

The Committee Manager
Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE JOINT USE AND CO-LOCATION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Temora Shire Council has been involved in a number of projects where co-location of Local Government services and State Government services or indeed several State Government services have been considered. It is fair to say the success encountered by Council with these proposals has been mixed.

One example of excellence in co-location of Council and State Government services is NRCC House. This facility houses the Temora Visitor Information Centre, Temora Library, Temora CTC, Temora Home and Community Care and the Greater Murray Area Health Service. In this instance you can see that State Local and Federal Government have worked together to achieve an excellent result for the community. Another is the installation of an RTA office in our Council building. Unfortunately such an achievement is not the norm with inter government relationships.

The standing committee is considering the design regulatory arrangements cost implications of joint use and co-location of these buildings. The real issue from a Local Government perspective in relation to this matter is the degree of commitment from the State Government to achieve real savings by co-location of facilities. In our experience we have found that State Government planning processes for infrastructure management to be cumbersome and difficult to fit the reaction speed of Local Government or private industry. This is a real impediment to further development of what we see as a logical progression to provide excellence in service to our residents. In addition, our Council question the commitment of many government departments to engage in meaningful dialogue in relation to improved service delivery by co-location. There is a significant element of parochialism that has surfaced in many of our dealings which needs to be addressed before such arrangements are main stream.

I trust this short submission will be considered in preliminary discussions in relation to the matter, to potentially broaden the scope of the inquiry away from specifically the physical issues to the underlying issues of commitment and resolve in relation to the process.

Yours faithfully

G C Lavelle
GENERAL MANAGER