



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA - THE SENATE

12th October, 2010

Senator the Hon
Eric Abetz
Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

Mr Geoff Lake
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mr Lake

Thank you for your letter of 1st October, 2010 informing me of a number of Resolutions passed by the Association.

I note that three were attached. It would appear that the first two do not relate to my portfolio responsibilities. However, the third moved by Holroyd City Council dealing with asbestos clearly does. I have sought to raise this question at Senate Estimates shortly and would also be interested in the Government's response to the Association.

There clearly is a public health issue that needs to be addressed and I believe that the Association's suggestion is at a minimum worthy of detailed consideration. That detailed consideration would of course require liaising with the various States. I also note the Coalition has been fully supportive of a national approach of occupational health and safety which was initiated by the Coalition and continued under the current Government.

It may be appropriate to deal with the issues relating to asbestos in that review.

Once again, thank you for bringing the resolution to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Eric Abetz
Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

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...advancing Tasmania's interests.