



**Minister for Local Government; Heritage;
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**

Our Ref: 38-05137

Ms Alexandra Jones
alx_jones@yahoo.com.au

Thank you for your email dated 20 January 2010 forwarded to myself and others regarding Mr Richard Pennicuik and the 'Save Our Trees' campaign.

I have previously provided advice to you regarding the legislative and policy frameworks surrounding this matter, along with my determination on State Government intervention in this area.

However, it is worthwhile reiterating that the general competence power of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides local governments with significant decision making autonomy. This includes the type and content of local laws and policies they may wish to adopt.

While I note your argument that 'claims by various authorities about the need for removal have often been unsubstantiated and proven wrong', experience has shown that local governments do not support the removal of healthy and viable street trees, where possible, as they are considered an asset to the community. Support for the removal of street trees is given if they are dead, dying, diseased or dangerous.

In relation to your question regarding the impact of the Federal Government's spending in schools, I suggest that you contact the program directly. The contact details for the National Co-ordinator are as follows:

Email - BER@deewr.gov.au, Telephone - 1300 363 079, Post - National Coordinator, Building the Education Revolution, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, GPO Box 9879, CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601.

Yours sincerely

G M (John) Castrilli MLA
**MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; HERITAGE;
CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

25 FEB 2010