



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

8 March 2005

**GM6 NATIONAL SEA CHANGE TASKFORCE
FILE: * AVB**

SUMMARY:

To consider membership of the National Sea Change Taskforce.



The Taskforce has been formed as a national body representing Councils in coastal areas in all Australian States. The principal objectives of the Taskforce are:-

- To support and advance the interests of coastal councils and their constituencies;
- To provide national leadership in addressing the impact of the sea change phenomenon;
- To work collaboratively with local State and Federal Governments to develop a coordinated approach to managing population and tourism growth in coastal areas.

The Taskforce has extended an invitation to Kempsey Shire to become a member. The cost of membership would be \$2,250 for the year ending 30 September 2005.

Council did consider membership in June 2004 but resolved to defer a decision until the cost of membership was known.

Since its formation the Taskforce has, undertaken a survey of 2004 federal election candidates, organised a Sea Change Conference and commenced a detailed research project into the Sea Change phenomenon and its effects with the Planning Research Centre at the University of Sydney. This research, which is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000 over three (3) years plus the possibility of additional funding through the Australian Research Council, aims to:

1. Identify the key social, economic, and environmental planning issues facing Sea Change communities in Australia, and current responses to these issues

2. Identify models of international and national best practice in planning to address these issues (at local and regional scales)
3. Develop a range of specific regional and local planning models suitable for application in Australian Sea Change communities

The results of this research, which will be of considerable value to coastal Councils facing the challenge of rapid population and tourism growth, will be available to all Councils participating as members in the National Sea Change Taskforce. Additional research into the economic and social impact of the Sea Change phenomenon is also being planned.

The whole emphases of the Taskforce is to get a better financial deal from all levels of government for coastal Councils who are high growth areas but are not receiving the levels of funding made available to designated growth corridors in outer metropolitan areas.

The level of contribution is modest and Council could receive many advantages from belonging to the Taskforce.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Additional funding would allow for better environmental planning through the development and implementation of strategies.

- ***Social***

The provision of better public transport, health care, emergency services and education would enhance resident's well being.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The cost of membership of the Taskforce is \$2,250.00

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council become a member of the National Sea Change Taskforce and the membership fee be funded from working funds.

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**A V Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER**