

MAYOR'S REPORT

8th March 2005

M1	"A" DIVISION CONFERENCE
	FILE: * CLR J A C HAYES

SUMMARY:

To advise Council of the proceedings of the "A" Division Conference held in Casino.



DESCRIPTION:

The General Manger and I attended the "A" Division Conference of the Shires Association of NSW in Casino on Wednesday, 16 February.

The Conference was addressed by: -

- Councillor Phyllis Miller, President Shires Association
- The Hon. Tony Kelly, MLC Minister for Local Government
- Mr Andrew Fraser, MP Shadow Minister for Local Government
- Mr Greg Chalmers, Country Energy

Councillor Miller covered the following topics: -

- Code of Conduct.
- The proposal to set Councillor expenses through the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.
- The formation of a working party to establish criteria for political donations. The same criteria should apply to both State and Local Government.
- A meeting to be held with the Electoral Commissioner to discuss 2004 election problems and funding increases.
- The need to advise the Associations of problems being encountered with the Rural Fire Service.
- Individual Councils should develop Memorandum of Understandings with their Catchment Management Authority.
- Amalgamation of the Associations.

The Minister spoke on the following: -

- Amalgamation of Councils.
- Benefits of Strategic Alliances.

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- Code of Conduct. Individual Councillors can be dismissed on a recommendation from ICAC.
- The dismissal of the Orange City Council General Manager.

During question time the Minister, in response to a question from myself, did indicate that he would be receptive to applications for rate increases for infrastructure provision.

Council had two motions before Conference: -

1. *"That the Shires Association make representations to the Minister for Roads supporting volumetric loading of livestock transport vehicles if additional funding is provided to Local Government to compensate for the increased damaging effect due to any load increases."*
2. *"That the State Government be requested to implement the recommendations of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) as from 1 July 2005 to ensure a more equitable allocation of funding for NSW Health Services".*

Both motions were adopted by Conference and will be submitted by "A" Division for inclusion in the Shires Conference Agenda.

I also raised a late motion regarding the crises that Local Government is having with the provision and maintenance of infrastructure. The issue is to be referred to the Shires Conference Committee to see whether a workshop can be held as part of this years Conference. Tweed Shire Council sought support from the Division for changes to the Electoral Funding Act. Their submission has been referred to the LGSA Working Group on Local Government Election Funding.

The "A" Division representative, Col Sullivan has given notice that he intends to stand as President of the Shires Association at the elections to be held in June and if successful there will be a need for divisional councils to appoint a new "A" Division Representative.

Council also submitted a submission on the amalgamation of the Associations [\(Appendix A\)](#). The submission is to be referred to the working party investigating the proposal. Councils who support our submission have been asked to write to the Association.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Nil

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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J A C Hayes
MAYOR