



MAYORAL REPORT

13th September 2005

MM1	LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING SEMINAR
FILE: *	JACH

SUMMARY:

To provide an overview of the Local Government Planning Seminar held on the 12th August 2005



Councillors Bowell, Hunt and Saul and the General Manager and myself attended a Local Government Planning and Environmental Law Seminar presented by the Marsdens Law Group on Friday 12th August 2005 at Bankstown.

Mr Rod McGeoch AMLLB was the keynote speaker and he spoke on his Australian Olympic bid team and their development into a high performance unit through teamwork, the adherence to organisational values and the retention of staff who thought creatively.

Janet Dore, General Manager, Newcastle City and Councillor Helen Westwood, Mayor of Bankstown spoke on their respective roles and the importance of a close and trusting relationship between General Managers and Mayors. A panel of six had the opportunity to discuss a topic of choice relating to Local Government. Gabrielle Kibble spoke on her role as Administrator of Liverpool Council, Councillor Brenton Banfield, Mayor of Campbelltown outlined the need for a position description for the role, Councillor Phyllis Miller immediate past President of the Shires Association attacked the Councillor Remuneration system and the Code of Conduct, Mr Don Ramsland, General Manager, Wellington Shire outlined problems being experienced due to staff shortages, Mr John Rayner, General Manager, Sutherland took us through his Council's operational problems with the Conduct Committee and Rod Oxley, General Manager, Wollongong advanced a proposal for the Development Assessment Process to be taken from Councillors and transferred to Independent Development Assessment Panels.

We were brought up to date on recent developments in the Land and Environment Court and Mr Dennis Barietovic from Price Waterhouse outlined the importance of introducing an internal audit process.

The seminar was addressed by the new Minister for Local Government Kerry Hickey who will be continuing the reform process started by Tony Kelly to improve the standard of performance of Council's in New South Wales. At the fellowship function following the seminar both the General Manager and myself had an extended opportunity one on one for about an hour and a half to fraternise with both the Minister and the Director General Gary Payne and develop a cordial business relationship.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil.

- *Social*

The opportunity to socialise with the Minister and Director General will result in future benefits.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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J A C Hayes
MAYOR