



MAYORAL REPORT

13th September 2005

MM4	MID NORTH COAST GROUP OF COUNCILS
FILE: *	JACH

SUMMARY:

To advise Council of decisions made at the Mid North Coast Group of Councils meeting.



The Mid North Coast Group of Councils meeting was held at Coffs Harbour on Wednesday, 31 August and was attended by the General Manager and myself.

The meeting was addressed by Mr John Rooth, OAM Chairperson Mid North Coast Area Disability Committee, about a Local Government and Disability workshop to be held on Friday, 20 September at Port Macquarie. All Councillors are encouraged to attend. Council is to forward to Mr Rooth a summary on the operation of Council's disability services asap.

There was general discussion on the operation of Conduct Committees. Kempsey Shire is the only Council to have their Conduct Committee convened and we are the only Council to have adopted operating procedures for the Committee.

A copy of those procedures are to be distributed with the minutes.

Members agreed to support Greater Taree's motion to the Local Government Association Conference to exempt Councils from the rate pegging legislation where special rate variations are sought for funds to be channelled specifically into maintaining and improving the basic road and bridge infrastructure network.

During discussion on the Pacific Highway upgrade issues I strongly voiced the opinion that the Summit to be held at Port Macquarie on the 9 September be open to all Councillors to attend. Subsequent discussions with the organisers has allowed this to happen. Council's resolution seeking to have the State Government to hold

an inquiry into Pacific Highway upgrades was supported by the Group.

North Coast NSW Tourism are fostering the idea that a selection panel of three (3) be engaged to appoint the new board to take office from the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 12 October. MIDGOC Councils are opposed to this and have unanimously resolved that the selection panel to appoint the Board comprise an elected representative of each member Council. MIDGOC also resolved that a special resolution be submitted to the Annual General Meeting changing the constitution to provide for each member Council to be represented on the Board by an elected representative.

The Department of Energy Utilities and Sustainability is now requiring Councils to prepare Energy Savings Action Plans by 30 June 2006. This could be a costly exercise and the Department, as far as MIDGOC is aware, has not consulted Local Government on their content or timeframe. I have given an undertaking to MIDGOC that I will refer the matter to the next Shires Association Executive meeting.

An update on the Strategic Alliance Project was submitted to the meeting [Appendix A](#). I am advised by the General Manager that Kempsey Shire has also: -

- Joined with Coffs Harbour City Council and ETC to develop a registered training organisation that will offer training courses to ourselves and others.
- Joined with TAFE and sourced State and Federal funding for training courses which will allow existing resources to be reallocated.
- Outsourced recruitment to a job network for positions under approximately \$40,000.
- In conjunction with Nambucca and Bellingen commenced benchmarking of development services with the statistics being accessed from the web.
- Shared resources of a Heritage Officer with Port Macquarie/Hastings.
- Made arrangements with Port Macquarie/Hastings to promote next years Heritage Festival.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil.

- ***Social***

Nil

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Councillors nominate to attend the Local Government Disability Workshop to be held in Port Macquarie on Friday, 30 September.
2. That Council endorse MIDGOC's stance that the constitution of the North Coast NSW Tourism be amended to provide for an elected representative of each member Council on the Board.
3. That Council nominate a Councillor to serve on the selection panel for the Board members to be appointed as from the Annual General meeting of North Coast NSW Tourism to be held on the 12 October 2005.

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J A C Hayes
MAYOR