



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

11th October 2005

**DSS11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND DISABILITY
WORKSHOP
FILE: * GRW**

SUMMARY:

Report on attendance at the Local Government and Disability Workshop hosted by Mid North Coast Area Disability Committee – Port Macquarie on the 30th September 2005.

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On the 30th September 2005, Councillor Betty Green and the Manager Community and Lifestyle Services Guy Whelan, attended a Local Government and Disability Services Workshop held at Port Macquarie. Representatives from Port Macquarie Hastings, Great Lakes, Greater Taree, Bellingen, Nambucca, Kempsey and Coffs Harbour Councils were represented at the workshop. A small number of Non Government Organisations (NGO's) were represented also.

The objectives of the workshop were: -

- (1) Foster a closer working relationship between the LGA's in the Mid North Coast and the Area Disability Committee in disability matters,
- (2) To improve awareness of current programs and aspirations of LGA's and ADC, and
- (3) To improve understanding of the needs of people with a disability and discuss the role of LGA's in meeting these needs.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants identified four (4) key areas that needed to be addressed. Those areas are: -

- Need for all LGA's on the Mid North Coast to work more closely in the area of Disability Services rather than operating as separate entities.

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- Need for the production of a Mid North Coast Disability map which utilises standardised symbols in an effort to avoid confusion.
- Need to lobby State Government to introduce licensing legislation governing the use of motorised transportation systems (Gophers) in an effort to reduce the rising number of injuries amongst the elderly and disabled.
- Councils may need to re-examine the use of pavers in high traffic public areas where the uneven/unstable surface creates hazards for those with disabilities.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

The use of pavers in high traffic areas or CBD's within the Shire may need to be re-examined as a result of potential injury to the frail, the aged and those with physical disabilities.

- *Social*

A number of these issues have been identified in the social plan.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Council may be required to provide funds for the production and publication of a regional mobility plan. It is envisaged that funding for this purpose could be met from existing budgetary allocations.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Council may be required to lend support to a Regional Council initiative seeking the introduction of State legislation governing the use, design and licensing requirements for motorised transportation systems (Gophers).

- *Director's Review*

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted
2. That the Kempsey Shire Council continues to work closely with the Mid North Coast Area Disability Committee and Mid North Coast Councils in an effort to present a united approach to the issues identified following the Disability Workshop.

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES