



DELEGATE'S REPORT

15th November 2005

DR3 NRMA BETTER ROADS
FILE: * CLR JHB

SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at the launch of the Assessment Report 2005 – NRMA Motoring and Services Better Roads Project.



The research report prepared by Parsons Brinkerhoff was launched at Port Macquarie on Friday, 4 November 2005.

Acting Director of Shire Services, Mr Tom Vermeulen and myself attended on behalf of Council.

Also in attendance were Mr Andrew Stoner, MP Member for Oxley, Leader of The Nationals; Mr John Turner, MP Member for Myall Lakes and Mr Rob Oakeshott, MP Member for Port Macquarie. Quite a few of the Panel members and other Council representatives were notable absentees.

Ms Wendy Machin, Chair Mid North Coast Panel, outlined briefly how the Panel members were selected referring specifically to the representation of Members of Parliament and Local Government.

The purpose of the study was to establish whether the governmental commitments have been matched by efficient and timely delivery of road upgrades.

In summary the report discloses that projects were not completed within the specified time schedule and in most cases in excess of initial cost estimates.

The purpose of the Better Roads initiative was to explore the link between roads and regional economies as well as important safety issues.

The review undertaken includes the Pacific and Oxley Highways together with Waterfall and Buckets Way.

At the meeting of Council on 9 August 2005 it was resolved:-

"That Council provide all relevant detail in respect to the roads infrastructure within Kempsey Shire including the Pacific Highway, Trunk Road 75, Maria River Road and the South West Rocks/Stuarts Point link to the NRMA Better Roads Panel."

Together with the above submission reference was made to:-

- Heavy Vehicle Service Centre and Freight **Intermodal** Transport Terminal for Kempsey
- Pacific Highway Noise Taskforce
- Regional Roads Review Panel
- Speed Zone Review
- Local Road Infrastructure

These matters have yet to be considered by the Panel.

During discussions reference was made to the question of Public/Private partnerships for road construction and the provision of toll sections on the Pacific Highway.

It was stated that whilst toll sections could be considered, free routes would still be required.

The question is will Local Government be required to maintain the free routes?

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

Nil

- **Social**

Nil

- **Economic (Financial)**

Nil

- **Policy or Statutory**

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council, in conjunction with the Mid North Coast Group of Councils, and the member of State Government from the

Mid North Coast are continue to advocate for upgrading of the Pacific Highway as an urgent priority.

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COUNCILLORS J H BOWELL