



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

15 November 2005

GM1 RESOURCE SHARING
FILE: * AVB

SUMMARY:

To outline Resource sharing initiatives undertaken by the MIDGOC Councils.



Council, in September resolved, "That a report be submitted to Council at the November meeting detailing expected financial savings and/or increased service provision as a result of Resource Sharing". A copy of the progress report submitted to the September meeting is attached [Appendix A](#)

In addition Council has:

- 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.

As a result of our participation in the Hunter procurement group, the General Managers have agreed to set up an additional network group of Purchase Officers to oversee the operation of the procurement from this source. This should ensure commitment from each Council.

Some of the networks are operating better than others. The infrastructure network, the one that has the greatest potential, is having difficulties. Some of the Councils have had vacancies in their Director of Engineering positions and the data collection required by each Council has placed a strain on individual Council resources. Actions are being put in place to reactivate the network.

The networks were concentrating on regional issues and trying to get all Councils involved in projects. The networks have been instructed by the General Managers to look at sub-regional alliances and to review their goals and objectives to allow them to concentrate on a small number of important issues that will achieve either the financial or service delivery returns sought.

The General Managers, at their last meeting agreed to extend the tenure of the consultant facilitating the process to the 30 June 2006. Rather than have a loose arrangement that has existed a brief is being prepared for him incorporating agreed performance measures.

The Resource Sharing initiatives are showing results although in many cases a \$ figure cannot be placed on them. The Councils are actually talking to each other and are co-operating. Goals are being set and initiatives have been identified and are being pursued.

There has been development of common systems and policies throughout the region. Financial benefits will be forth coming as a result of joint purchasing with the Hunter, the IT purchasing initiatives and through the joint training initiatives. Attached [Appendix B](#) are minutes of recent network meetings.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Environmental issues are taken into account particularly by the Town Planning Network Group.

- ***Social***

Social issues are being taken into account but Community Services, at this stage is not the subject of networking.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Financial benefits will result from the Resource Sharing exercise.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That a progress report on the outcomes achieved by Resource sharing be presented to Council on a six monthly basis.