



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

MAYORAL REPORT - SUPPLEMENTARY

11th April 2006

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| MM3 | NATIONAL SEA CHANGE CONFERENCE |
| SUPP. | FILE: 357 JACH {Folio No. *} |

SUMMARY:

To provide details of the proceedings of the National Sea Change conference held from 3rd to 5th April.



DESCRIPTION:

The National Sea Change conference was held at Port Douglas from 3rd to 5th April and was attended by the General Manager and myself. The conference was preceded by a meeting of the National Sea Change Taskforce of which I am one of two executive members representing NSW.

The Taskforce Advocacy Report was discussed by the conference [Appendix A](#) together with motions to go to the Annual General Meeting later in the year to expand membership to include affiliate organisations and to put a sunset life on the Taskforce if objectives are not being achieved were also discussed. The Taskforce does not want to become just another organisation within Local Government that can't justify its existence.

We toured Douglas Shire. The Shire under the leadership of Mayor Clr Mike Berwick (who visited South West Rocks last year) has limited growth to three (3) urban areas, is restricting rural subdivision to protect the sugar cane industry and has a buy back scheme in partnership with the Commonwealth and the State to prevent further development of the Daintree area.

Dr Nicole Gurrán, a joint author of two research documents completed on behalf of the Taskforce reviewed the reports outlining why migration to the coastal areas has taken place and the challenges identified by that migration such as disjointed planning, failure to integrate ESD, poor consultation and loss of community

trust. These challenges are being experienced by all coastal councils not just Kempsey Shire and all coastal councils are being pressured by their communities. The challenges were work shopped with the results to be included in a further research document.

Soibhan Toohill from Stocklands outlined how they enter into partnerships with Local Government to provide developments that comply with sustainable development tools such as BASIX in NSW, and save resources such as water and energy and provide community facilities.

There was a very good panel session comprising Professor Bruce Thorn, Dr Nicole Gurrin the University of Sydney, Dr Steven Cork CSIRO, Professor Leo Jago Sustainable Tourism Co-operative Research Centre and Dr Rob Fearon, Coastal CRC. The CSIRO provides research into planning and managing growth, policy guidance and regulatory controls, integrated planning, information sourcing and model scenarios to address environmental, social, infrastructure and economic issues. Tourism can be a problem if not well managed as it has a social impact on community quality of life. The biggest positive of tourism is the provision of infrastructure while the biggest negative is disruption to the local residents. Coastal research often identifies issues that are going to happen in the future and it is hard to get governments and communities to react and plan.

Another panel session concentrated on the effects that population growth has on community identity and quality of life. The major effects include ageing population, high unemployment, low tertiary education rates, over natural resource use, tourism impacts, lack of community trust, housing affordability and lack of infrastructure provision.

I was asked to serve on a panel dealing with infrastructure with the Hon. Paul Lucas, MP Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Road, Tom Pinzone from GHD and Geoff Carruthers from Champions of The Bush. I spoke on the LGSA's commissioning the report, "Are Councils Sustainable". A serious problem that Sea Change Councils have is the provision of infrastructure. Infrastructure is in serious disrepair and is in crisis and needs more resources and long term planning. Peoples expectations need to be managed once they move to their new communities and a lesser level of services may be the result.

Senator The Hon, Santo Santoro, The Commonwealth Minister for Ageing opened the conference and The Hon, Fran Bailey, MP Commonwealth Minister for Small Business and Tourism addressed the conference.

The National Seachange Taskforce adopted a sustainability Charter, a collaborative national response to sea change growth which seeks the commitment of all spheres of Government which aims to:-

- ❖ Develop innovative and best practice strategic planning at regional and local levels
- ❖ Preserve local character and sense of place
- ❖ Provide for the timely provision of resources to meet the needs of high growth communities for infrastructure and services
- ❖ Integrate coastal management and conservation objectives with economic development
- ❖ Support community well being
- ❖ Ensure community ownership and participation in key planning decisions affecting the coast

The National Sea Change Taskforce is doing valuable work commissioning research and bringing to the attention of governments the need for additional resources to fund rapid growth. Unfortunately not all Ministers have yet got the message. The Hon. Fran Bailey, Minister for Tourism stated that tourism's worth will increase from \$13 billion to \$32 billion in 2014 but is not offering Local Government any additional revenue to manage that growth even though the Commonwealth is reaping additional tax benefits.

The Taskforce is also asking for member Councils to participate in a branding strategy by having entrance signage to the shire that includes, in Kempsey's case, the Sea Change logo and words "Welcome to Kempsey Shire, you are entering a Sea Change Community".

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Additional funds obtained from other levels of Government as a result of lobbying efforts can be used on environmental projects.

- ***Social***

Additional funds obtained from other levels of Government as a result of lobbying efforts can be used on social projects.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Additional funding can be used to maintain and provide infrastructure.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That Council continues to support and be involved in the Sea Change Taskforce.
3. That Council participates in the Sea Change Taskforce branding strategy.

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J A C Hayes
MAYOR