



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

12th December 2006

<b>DR2</b>	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	<b>FILE: 152</b>	<b>JHB</b>	<b>{Folio No. *}</b>
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### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on attendance of Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Bowell and Councillor Ellis Walker at the Mitigation and Adaptation Summit in Sydney on Monday, 27 November 2006.



### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Summit was arranged by the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW and was attended by around 200 delegates with 50% of such delegates being councillors representing councils throughout New South Wales.

Councillor Genia McCaffery, President Local Government Association NSW / Mayor, North Sydney Council opened the Summit and referred to:

- Climate Change – Environmental Risks
- Planning Reforms
- Energy saving action plans
- Funding for programs
- Community ahead of Government action
- Regional Forums

The general theme which became apparent more and more during the day was Climate Change is a "Moral Issue" not an "Economic Issue".

It is essential for Local Government to provide leadership and drive in gathering political support in addressing global warming as many of the problems are due to human activity.

During the afternoon of the Summit there were Parallel Sessions relating to Coastal and Rural / Regional issues. Councillor Bowell attended the Rural / Regional sessions and Councillor Walker the Coastal sessions.

Mr Kevin Hennessy CSIRO stated that scientific evidence was overwhelming warning of increases in surface warming, and warming of the upper 300mm of the ocean which will result in sea level increases.

It must be remembered that 80% of the Australian population reside within the coastal belt.

Some examples of potential adaptation measures relevant to Climate Change are –

- improving water use efficiency
- changing planting times and practices for crops
- providing more shade and cooling for livestock
- reviewing flood management arrangements

The Associations propose a series of regional forums possibly on division status of the Shires Association.

Council has submitted a response to the Association's "Needs Analysis Survey".

The approach to Climate Change must be community owned and across boundaries and is a matter that should be included within the Strategic Alliance.

However, in view of the political importance of the matter and the necessity for leadership and drive, councillors must have a role within the alliance.

Councillor Barry Johnston OAM, Vice President, Shire Association of NSW / Mayor Inverell Shire Council closed the Summit.

Copies of papers presented to the Summit will be distributed to councillors.

## ***REPORT IMPLICATIONS:***

### ***Environmental***

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### ***Social***

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### ***Economic (Financial)***

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### ***Policy or Statutory***

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council advise the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW of its support for a Regional Forum and that Grafton be nominated being the centre of "A" Division.
2. That Climate Change be included within the agenda of the Strategic Alliance.
3. That councils within MNCGOC be contacted with the recommendation that two Councillors be nominated to the

**membership of the Strategic Alliance for consideration of the important matter of Climate Change.**

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**COUNCILLOR J H BOWELL**