



## MAYORAL REPORT

13<sup>th</sup> June 2006

<b>MM1</b>	<b>MID NORTH COAST GROUP OF COUNCIL'S</b>
<b>FILE: 131</b>	<b>JACH {Folio No. *}</b>

### SUMMARY:

To advise Council of the proceedings of the MIDGOC meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006.



### DESCRIPTION:

The General Manager and I attended MIDGOC meeting at Taree on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006. Councillor Ian Tiley, Mayor Clarence Valley Council attended as an observer.

There were two very good presentations to the meeting one from our Margaret Mottee who outlined the operation of the Customer First Centre and demonstrated the Knowledge Management System and the other from Greater Taree's Economic Development Officer Chris Ryan who demonstrated their Tell Us Your Skills and Relocate Here websites. A number of Councils have arranged with the General Manager to for their staff to inspect our facility and systems.

Kempsey referred the matter of voluntary Conservation Agreements to the meeting. Many of the Councils have not yet been affected by the agreement but Clarence Valley and Great Lakes have had wide experience in the area and outlined potential problems with the agreements such as RFS issues, Noxious Weeds infestations and the ongoing management of the agreements when the property is sold.

Both Clarence Valley and Great Lakes are to present an issues paper to the next meeting.

The group is to make urgent representations to the Premier and the Responsible Minister to retain funding for water quality monitoring for oyster testing as there are strong indications that

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this important funding will be deleted in the coming state budget and pressure will be put on Local Government to fund the shortfall.

Each Mayor is to present a report to their Council on the LGSA inquiry into the financial sustainability of NSW local Government and Clarence Valley Council has been invited to become a member of MIDGOC.

Other issues discussed were:

- The introduction of rural bus stop guidelines and the conducting of a bus road safety program. These issues have been referred to the works / infrastructure network group.
- The importance of getting the Regional Planning Strategy right.
- Commonwealth and State Political response to Seachange Lobbying
- The possibility of amalgamation of water and sewerage authorities.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*Nil*

- *Social*

*Nil*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*Nil*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**J A C Hayes**  
**MAYOR**