



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

14th February 2006

GM4	NATIONAL SEACHANGE TASKFORCE CONFERENCE 2006 FILE: * AVB
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on the National Seachange Taskforce Conference.



DESCRIPTION:

As Councillors are aware, Kempsey is a member of the National Seachange Taskforce Conference and at the time of making the decision to join the Taskforce, attention was drawn to the likelihood of attending forums etc., to allow appropriate participation in the Taskforce.

The first National Seachange Taskforce (NSCT) conference is being held in Port Douglas. The conference will run from 4 - 5 April with a workshop on 6 April.

The conference is titled "Sea Change 2006: Meeting the Coastal Challenge" and is aimed at presenting innovative strategies to address the environmental, social and economic impact of population growth in coastal areas.

Full conference program details will be available shortly, but preliminary advice is that speakers at the conference will include the Queensland Premier – Peter Beattie; Jim Lloyd – Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads; Ian Campbell – Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage; Warren Truss – Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services; Professor Ed Blakely and Dr Nicole Gurrans from the University of Sydney's Planning Research Centre on best practice models.

As indicated at the time of deciding to join the Taskforce, the main benefits of being part of the Taskforce are: -

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- ✓ The opportunity to exchange information and ideas with coastal councils experiencing similar challenges;
- ✓ The opportunity to share the costs of ground breaking research into sea change issues;
- ✓ Being part of an advocacy program that has placed sea change well and truly on the political agenda and has initiated a collaborative approach between state, territory and Federal governments to address the issue.

Participation in the conference would assist in addressing some of the influences identified in the Strategic Alignment, 2020 Vision, including: -

- Effect of demographic changes
- Extended responsibilities for local government
- Lifestyle choices
- Growing demands for transport and access to infrastructure
- Growth potential and capacity

Attendance at the conference will assist in realising these benefits in addition to exploring the existing strategies.

The Mayor is an executive member of the Taskforce representing NSW. An executive meeting is to be held in conjunction with the conference. The Taskforce will pay a contribution towards her traveling costs.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Nil

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Attendance at the conference will incur a registration cost of \$495.00 per member at the early bird rate together with costs associated with travel and accommodation etc.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

- ***General Manager's Review***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council be represented at the conference by the Mayor, Cllr Janet Hayes.
2. Council determine whether it wishes to be represented at the conference by other Councillors.

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A V Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER