



MAYORAL REPORT

14th February 2006

MM1	PACIFIC HIGHWAY TASKFORCE
FILE: *	JACH {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

To report the outcomes of the meeting of the taskforce to formally establish an action group to lobby for the upgrading of Pacific Highway.



DESCRIPTION:

I attended the inaugural meeting of the Pacific Highway Taskforce in Sydney on the 25th November 2005. The minutes of that meeting are attached at [Appendix A](#).

The following matters would be of interest to councillors:

1. The taskforce has resolved that membership shall consist of mayors of council's that support the upgrading of the Pacific Highway to a dual carriageway standard within ten years, as well as the NRMA.
2. A total of 16 council's are either on, or close to, the Pacific Highway, with an additional 10 council's indirectly affected. The footprint of the Taskforce is therefore nominally the local council regions of Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast and Hunter Council's. The footprint therefore covers over one million residents of New South Wales.
3. The meeting agreed that the purpose of the Taskforce was to lobby the State and Federal Governments to devise a mechanism for funding the upgrade and to make it happen within ten years.
4. The meeting duly formed an executive, with membership and elected representatives as follows:
 - Chair – Cr Ernie Bennet – Mayor of Kyogle / President of NOROC.

- Southern Representative – Cr Robert Drew, Mayor of Port Macquarie.
- Mid-region Representative – Cr Keith Rhoades, Mayor of Coffs Harbour City Council.
- Northern Representative – Cr Phillip Silver, Mayor of Ballina.
- NRMA – Mr Alan Evans, President
- NRMA – Ms Wendy Machin – Board member

The NRMA has agreed to support the establishment of a secretariat for the taskforce to an amount of \$20,000 – an amount that Council's on the taskforce are seeking to match. Council is being asked to contribute \$2,000.

Funds of the taskforce will be used to campaign at a Local, State and National level, media education, lobbying efforts both in Sydney and Canberra and producing such materials, reports and submissions necessary to get this important issue in front of the ministers and the bureaucracy.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Nil

- ***Economic (Financial)***

There is no provision for a contribution in the budget. Funds would need to come from working funds

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council contributes \$2,000 to the Pacific Highway Taskforce secretariat.

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J A C Hayes
MAYOR