



MAYORAL REPORT

14th November 2006

MM1	LGSA LEADERS FORUM		
	FILE: 165	EAG	{Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Report on attendance at the inaugural LGSA Leaders Forum in Sydney 20th October 2006. There are to be quarterly meetings of this forum to progress work arising from the Percy Allan Report.



DESCRIPTION:

Cr. Janet Hayes, the General Manager and I attended this meeting to look at:-

- Current issues facing Local Government Councils across the State,
- To receive a report on action, to date, on the Percy Allan report
- To review the LGSA platform for the 2007 NSW State Government elections.

Initially discussion focused on the continuing disastrous drought on the other side of the Great Dividing Ranges. It was identified that not only farmers are affected but all business in the drought areas and without some assistance these business will fail, with consequent loss of economic activity in the areas which will, in all probability, never return.

There was also debate on the health impacts for all involved in the drought with 1 suicide every four days, limited mental health and rural counselling services which further exacerbates the issues facing all those involved.

Several motions were put in relation to the drought and are well set out in [Appendix A](#)

A report was received on actions arising from the Percy Allen report and we are currently waiting feedback from the working parties set up to progress the issues identified.

The LGSA platform for the coming state elections 2007 are attached as [Appendix B](#) for your information.

The LGSA has asked that all councils become involved in any state-wide actions recommended to bring these matters to the government and communities' notice. Further to localise these issues for local input.

Addendum

At the opening of the Crescent Head Pool on Friday 3 November 2006 discussion was held with the member for Lyne, Mr Mark Vaile on the drought situation. Councillor Bowell and myself suggested that we could ship (by train) the water from the McIntyre Dam out west. It would not be suitable for household use but could be used for stock or irrigation. Mr Vaile asked if we would enter into correspondence with him re transport etc, and any other thoughts on drought support.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

The affects of the drought will have considerable impact on the environment and we need to take steps to minimise this.

It is anticipated that the election platform will put pressure on the government to provide additional resources for all areas of council activity.

- ***Social***

Considerable social dislocation is likely to occur in other council areas however we will not escape as commodities become scarcer due to the drought.

The election platform is anticipated to increase resources to continue with our Social plan.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

While initially there will be little economic impact for us from the drought, it will impact considerably in the longer term.

However there is the possibility of increased resources arising from the LGSA election platform.

- *Policy or Statutory:*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the information be noted.
2. That council agree to support any appropriate actions required in relation to:- drought assistance and the LGSA Election platform.
3. That we galvanise our community to assist a like Local Government Area in the drought stricken areas to provide support and assistance as appropriate.
4. That we make the most of any increased resource opportunities which may become available during the current election campaign.

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E A Green
MAYOR