



KEMPSEY  
Shire Council

## MAYORAL REPORT

10<sup>th</sup> July 2007

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| MM1 | MIDGOC<br>FILE: 131 | EAG | {Folio No. *} |
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### SUMMARY:

To advise Council of the decisions of the MIDGOC meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007.

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### DESCRIPTION:

The General Manager and I attended the MIDGOC meeting at Great Lakes Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007.

There were a number of presentations as well as general business items. Presentations were made by: -

- ✚ Ms Robyn Bierell, Performing Art Director, Port Macquarie Hastings Glass House Project.
- ✚ Mr Craig Swift McNair, Mid North Coast Strategic Alliance Group, Procurement Group.
- ✚ Mr Matthew Crozier (representing private developers) – concerns with draft North Coast Regional Strategy.
- ✚ Ms Meredith Laing, Environmental Director, Hunter Councils – Hunter Council's approach to Climate change.
- ✚ Mr Glen Handford, Director Planning and Environmental Services, Great Lakes Council – Water Quality Program.
- ✚ Mr Brian Omara, General Manager LGSA Procurement.

The Group does not support an inquiry into the Glasshouse Project and has resolved:-

*"Given the very detailed and public scrutiny of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Glasshouse Project, the Department of Local Government be advised that there would seem to be no purpose in conducting an inquiry under Section 740 of the Act. Further, any public inquiry will raise legitimate concerns about the autonomy of a democratically elected Council when challenged by opposition by a vocal but not necessarily representative group. In this respect the issue is not different to the scores of major infrastructure projects the State Government has undertaken over the decades which were initially spurned by some opponents but which are now celebrated by the community."*

Mathew Crozier outlined the concerns of developers maintaining that there had been little consultation regarding the draft North Coast Regional

Strategy that the plan was more of the same, population projections were inaccurate, there was no planning for an ageing population and that housing provision was underestimated.

The presentation on climate change was very interesting. Increased levels of CO2 have increased drought and weather conditions. If temperatures increase by one degree or more it will have economic impacts. Local Government has a role to play in collaborative research, risk management, statutory planning and asset management. Hunter Councils have received a grant of \$250,000 for a regional research project into rainfall patterns, temperature and frequency of weather events.

Great Lakes Council outlined their Darawakn Wetland Restoration project preventing acid sulphate soil contamination in the Wolamba River through property acquisition and their Coastal Catchment Initiative, a water quality improvement plan.

The Group resolved to give notice to the Regional Tourism Organisation that it is considering withdrawing from that organisation. Tourism Officers of member Councils are to report to the next meeting of MIDGOC on the consequences and the Chairman and CEO of the tourism organisation have been invited to the next meeting.

The Group has also taken Kempsey Council's lead in not joining the NSW Coastal Council's Group but is to raise the issue of the formation of a NSW chapter of the National Seachange Taskforce at the Annual General Meeting to be held in August.

In relation to water and sewerage issues and Country Town Water supplies and our proposed meeting with Minister for Water and Utilities of which MIDGOC is in full support of our initiative.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***Nil***

- ***Social***

***Nil***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

***Nil***

- ***Policy or Statutory***

***Nil***

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**E A Green  
MAYOR**