



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **MAYORAL REPORT**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

<b>MM1</b>	<b>NATIONAL SEA CHANGE TASKFORCE</b>
<b>FILE: 357</b>	<b>EAG {Folio No. *}</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

To advise Council of the proceedings of the National Sea Change Taskforce Conference

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

From 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August Councillors Hayes and McWilliam, the General Manager and myself attended the National Sea Change Taskforce Conference. On Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> the Annual General Meeting of the Taskforce was held. Councillor Hayes and Councillor Fergus Thomson from Eurobodalla Shire were re-elected unopposed as the NSW Delegates to the National Taskforce. A motion allowing member Councils to form state based branches was adopted at the meeting and the NSW delegates will be calling a meeting of NSW member Councils to discuss this proposal. An election campaign to the lead-up to the 2007 Federal election has been prepared and options for creating a National Coastal Alliance has been put on hold until after the election. The Taskforce has undertaken and achieved much since its creation and I attach a copy of the report to members for your information. [Appendix A Part 1, Part 2](#)  
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The Conference had the following themes: -

- o Climate Change
- o Planning for Population Change
- o Economic Drivers for Sea Change Communities
- o Building a Sea Change Knowledge Community
- o The Cost of Sea Change Growth

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP Minister for Environment and Water Resources announced the granting of \$1.7 million for a National Digital Elevation Model to measure sea rises. Mr Simon Crean, MP Shadow Minister for Trade and Regional Development outlined the oppositions support for Local Government and Regional Australia including: -

- Commitment to Constitutional Recognition
- Better Dialogue with Local Government
- Revitalisation of Regional Development Structures

- Embedding Localism into Federal Government thinking
- The Establishment of Infrastructure Australia

The Hon. Christopher Payne, Minister for the Ageing advised that people aged over 65 years of age will triple by 2047 and those aged 85 years of age and over will account for 6% to 9% of the population by 2051. This is particularly affecting Sea Change communities where the 65 and overs already account for 21% of the population.

Climate Changes have occurred throughout time and currently there is change caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide. Extreme events will occur more often which will affect lifestyle, economic growth and development on the coast. There is a need to plan for climate change with low carbon impact development, minimise the need to travel, require developments to have decentralised energy supply, have a precautionary approach to risk and increase open space. Climate change projections should be incorporated in management plans and policies.

Coastal population has increased by 1 million since 1996 and future increases need to be planned. The South East Queensland Plan, a 20 year plan, was demonstrated as a good example of future planning as it incorporates an infrastructure plan as part of the planning process. Various other models were demonstrated such as the Noosa plan to cap population and have a Noosa look and feel with no parking metres, no traffic lights, no six lane roads, no high rise and limited signage. The Victorian Coastal Settlement Framework determines the level of infrastructure and services required for different sizes of locality.

Coastal communities need to find home grown solutions. Poaching is not the answer. There is a need to work with educational institutions to raise the levels of human capital by having educational institutions engaging with the community and building relationships with the aged in particular who they have traditionally ignored. Examples where given on how the University of The Sunshine Coast has developed an Innovation Centre on campus and how Gold Coast City Council has worked with Lend Lease to build a Residential and Technology Park adjacent to Bond University.

There is a shortfall in all categories of infrastructure which has been highlighted by reports commissioned by the Taskforce and others. There has been some response from governments to address needs particularly large infrastructure projects but the needs of local government largely still remain. The Taskforce has since its establishment been calling for the creation of a Community Infrastructure Fund for Sea Change Communities and the ALGA and other LGA's have followed suit and been lobbying for such a fund for all of Local Government. The recent announcement of the establishment of a \$1.5 billion fund is excellent news.

The problem of financing infrastructure is ongoing. The cost of loan financing in world terms is expensive, development charges increase housing costs particularly for first home buyers putting pressure on government, there is some grant funding, you can increase rates and charges or reduce other services.

It is not only the people migrating to the coast that put pressure on services. Alternative populations such as transient workers and tourists use infrastructure and do not directly contribute. They put pressure on fire management, waste disposal, road congestion, litter removal and

facility maintenance. They irregularly maintain properties and have little engagement with the community.

The areas that the Taskforce members want more emphasis placed on are:-

- Housing Affordability / Rental
- Development of Human Capital
- Community Needs Versus Wants
- Working with Private partners
- Localism in Federal thinking
- Ecological Values
- Need for national Coastal Policy

A Conference communiqué on those matters will be developed and forwarded to members.

The National Sea Change Taskforce is an organisation that has altered government to Sea Change needs and challenges and has achieved a lot in having governments respond to those needs. The conference was educational and well presented and should be supported in future years.

**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**