



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **MAYORAL REPORT**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

<b>MM3</b>	<b>MID NORTH COAST GROUP OF COUNCILS</b>
<b>FILE: 131</b>	<b>EAG {Folio No. *}</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

To advise Council of the decisions of MIDGOC meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Mid North Coast Group of Councils was held in Bellingen on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August. The General Manager and I were Councils delegates.

The meeting was addressed by: -

- Judy Henderson, Chair and Michael Pitt, General manager, Northern rivers Catchment Management Authority and
- Kathy Balodis, Chair and Belinda Novicky, CEO Mid North Coast Regional Tourism Organisation.

The Northern Rivers Catchment management Authority has now been in operation for three and a half years and has a small budget of \$6.5 million. They implement a Catchment Action Plan in conjunction with Local Government and were asking Local Government to co-operate with them in reporting on progress of projects. Funding for Local Government is available under the Urban Stability Program for protection of urban bushland and creeks, water quality, floodplain work and development of sustainability plans. Maximum grants on a regional basis are \$2 million and \$500,000 on a Council basis. The Authority is looking for a regional project for next year.

The Mid North Coast Regional Tourism organisation has been going through a restructure with a new board and a new Marketing Manager / CEO. The board is concentrating on marketing activities and has prepared a two year marketing plan. The RTO assists Councils by generating good media, by lobbying, by conducting business development workshops, by preparing brochures, by marketing at trade shows, by undertaking research and keeping statistical data, by industry networking and undertaking co-operative strategies. RTO not able to provide local council

statistics. Need to undertake at local level.

At the last meeting of MIDGOC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June the Group advised the RTO that it was giving consideration to withdrawing from the RTO. MIDGOC has now resolved that it requires annual presentations based on the achievement of KPI's to be developed in an expanded Management Plan.

Other matters considered at the meeting were:-

- ✓ Late notification of FAG grants and rate increases. The FAG grants have been referred to the ALGA and a motion is to be submitted to the ALGA Conference. Likewise the LGSA has been asked to take up the late notification of rate increases with the Minister and to investigate why the FAG grants distributed were less than the 3.9% provided in the commonwealth budget.
- ✓ Cost of Local Government Elections. The Group is objecting to the Minister for Local Government over increased costs without consultation and motions are being submitted to the LGA Conference.
- ✓ State funding for public libraries. The Group is objecting to the decreasing level of funding and is making a submission to the Sartor Inquiry.
- ✓ Rave parties. Bellingen Council in having troubles with the organisers of Rave Parties in their area. Tickets can be purchased on the internet and the location is divulged an hour or so before the party. Bellingen took out an injunction against the organisers at a cost of \$10,000 only to find they moved the venue to the Coffs City area. The Group is to write to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Police asking them to legislate to allow enforcement agencies to take more effective action in respect of rave / dance parties. Also to develop requirements across all councils.
- ✓ NSW Rural Taskforce meeting at Grafton. The meeting is to be held at Grafton on the 30 October which is the LGA Conference week and Local Government will be given two hours 10.30 to 12.30. Efforts are being made to change the venue to Coffs Harbour. The Group has agreed to make a regional submission.
- ✓ Police security charges for public functions where liquor is being served. The Police are requiring that one policeman for every 500 attendees must support any private security arrangements. The cost is \$81.70 per hour plus \$18.00 per hour for a vehicle if required. This is proving to be prohibitive for organisers which could lead to the withdrawal from the provision of events. Coffs Harbour and Bathurst Councils are taking up the issue.

Request for report from Regional Management Group to be a standing agenda item and representative to attend Human Services Committee meetings of the above and report back to MIDGOC.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***Nil***

- ***Social***

***Nil***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

***Nil***

- ***Policy or Statutory***

***Nil***

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

***Nil***

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**E A GREEN  
MAYOR**