



MAYORAL REPORT - SUPPLEMENTARY

12th June 2007

MM7 LGMA FORUM AND SHIRES CONFERENCE
SUPP FILE: 458 EAG {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Outlining details of the LGMA Forum and Shires Association Conference from 4th to 6th June.

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DESCRIPTION:

Councillors Bowell, Hayes, the General Manager and I attended the Local Government Managers Australia Forum and the Shires Association Conference in Sydney from 4th to 6th June.

The LGMA Forum was once again a worthwhile seminar with keynote presenters Ian Kiernan – Clean Up Australia and Janette Cornish – FISH Philosopher. Mr Kiernan spoke of the evolution of Clean Up Australia to Clean Up the World and from an organisation independent of government aid using volunteers picking up rubbish to an organisation that is activist protesting against anti-environmental projects and an organisation that undertakes environmental projects in conjunction with the community. Janette Cornish covered the FISH Working Culture developed by Pike Fish Company at the Seattle Markets that has four philosophies – Fun / Plan, Choose Your Attitude, Be There and Make Their Day.

There were two sessions on City / Country Sister Relationships and the benefits being gained through facilitation of community groups, staff sharing and sharing resources. There was a presentation on the elimination of red tape that was developed by forty one councils to assist small business resulting in customised town planning procedures and practices, the identification of an assessment basis of regulations that apply to applicants, and the development of 17 common forms.

The Minister for Local Government Paul Lynch addressed the forum and confirmed his commitment to resource sharing rather than amalgamation. There were details of a joint "Driveway Safety Project" being undertaken by Liverpool, Camden and Campbelltown Councils and a joint sustainability project being undertaken by Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

The Shires Association Conference was addressed by;

- Hon Paul Lynch MP Minister for Local Government
- Hon Jim Lloyd MHR Minister for Local Government and Territories
- Hon Richard Torbay MP Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly
- Cr Paul Bell President Australian Local Government Association
- Hon Ian MacDonald MLC Minister for Primary Industries, Energy and State Development
- Hon E M Roozendaal MLC Minister for Roads
- Hon Frank Sartor MP Minister for Planning
- Mr Barry O'Farrell MP Leader of the Opposition

State Government initiatives of course were announced prior to the State Election so little new news was conveyed to the conference. Frank Sartor did advise that some details of the Mid North Coast Strategy will be exhibited shortly prior to the finalisation of the draft strategy. SEPP5 for Senior Living has also been developed to address the housing issues of an aging population which will include compatibility assessments of aged housing sites being undertaken by the state.

Jim Lloyd advised that both the Roads to Recovery and the Blackspot Program had been extended to 2014 with substantial increases in funding and financial assistance grants have increased by 3.9% for the 2007 / 08 year. Funding of \$724 million has been made available for Regional Partnerships through the ACC and councils are encouraged to make application.

The biannual election of president and the annual election of treasurer, vice presidents and executive were held during the conference. Councillor Bruce Miller from Cowra was elected president.

Only one division was contested that is J Division. Councillor Hayes 'A', Councillor Johnston 'B', Councillor Donald 'C', Councillor Lowe 'D', Councillor Sharpe 'F', Councillor Braybrooks 'G' and Councillor Manchester 'H' were elected unopposed. Councillor Ken Keith 'E' replaced president Bruce Miller and after an election Councillor Ward retained his place on the executive. Councillor Steve Lowe was elected Senior Vice President, Councillor Barry Johnston Junior Vice President and Councillor Paul Braybrooks was returned as Treasurer.

Council had three motions before conference;

"That the Association investigates the use of video conferencing for city based meetings of 2 hours or less" **Carried**

A lengthy motion "That the Shires Association seek a commitment from the NSW Government regarding concerns raised at the 2006 NSW Local Roads Congress" **Carried**

"That the Shires Association requests the NSW Government to progressively return to 100% subsidy for compulsory pensioner rate rebates to allow escalation in assistance to be provided.

Referred to Executive

A number of motions were carried that alter the constitution viz;

"that the constitution of the Shires Association be amended to allow the incumbent president to be eligible to stand and be elected for a maximum 2 2 year terms after which they must step down".

"That effective from 2009 the Constitution of the Shires Association be amended to allow for the terms of office for executive council members, vice presidents, treasurer to be 2 years".

"That the office of Vice President General be created to provide for the situation where either the incumbent president is elected for a second term or there is a casual vacancy in the position of immediate past president, such position to be elected by delegates to the relevant conference, or in the case of a casual vacancy by the Executive Council".

A motion to divert surplus flows from the Clarence to the Murray Darling System was defeated and replaced with a motion for the Federal Minister to investigate all options to overcome water shortages west of the Divide.

There was also a resolution that was carried to make representations to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government Act to enable councils to decide that the term of their mayors elected by their peers to be one or two years.

This years conference also had a number of new initiatives. There were two sessions for General Managers and a number of case studies presented by councils on water management. Gary Smith from Macleay Water gave an excellent presentation on the South West Rocks Water Recycling Scheme.

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**