



DELEGATE'S REPORT

13th March 2007

DR2	DEPT. LOCAL GOVT. INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING REGIONAL WORKSHOP
	FILE: 242 CLR JCG {Folio No. *} }

SUMMARY:

I attended the Integrated Planning and Reporting Regional Workshop held by the Department of Local Government at Hornsby RSL Club on Thursday 8th February 2007. Also in attendance were Mayor Betty Green and General Manager Allan Burgess.

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DESCRIPTION:

The keynote address by the DLG Deputy Directory General Mr Ross Woodward on Planning a Sustainable Future was interesting. Mr Woodward gave the participants an overall view of what the Government would like implemented for a Sustainable Future, but as with both State and Federal Governments, the DLG implemented changes (outlined by report provided to all councillors) seems to be at Council's individual cost.

The second section of the workshop was Local Councils Experiences in the development of Strategic Plans. Mr Peter Gesling the General Manager of Port Stephens Council presented an excellent report in both presentation and content. He outlined the achievements made by Port Stephen's Management Team for the benefit of the ratepayers and businesses of his shire.

The values of Port Stephen's Council are:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Excellence
- Safety

The Mission Statement

Community: Leadership and alliances are innovative and entrepreneurial, stimulating growth and profits and delivery of a great lifestyle in a treasured environment.

Organisation: Our services are inclusive, creative and flexible and are grounded in our partnership with our community. They demonstrate our commitment to service excellence.

Vision: "A great lifestyle in a treasured environment."

Port Stephens Council as seen through my eyes was an open and accountable council, where everybody worked together for the benefit of the ratepayers and businesses, and where Councillors, Staff and volunteers were allowed to speak to each other. Where meetings were held between Councillors, Management and Staff to ensure everybody had an understanding of what each group were attempting to achieve. This council earned approximately 2 million dollars last year from the Newcastle Airport in partnership with Newcastle Council.

This council has also held 15 Councillor workshops over the last 3 years for and including;

- Media Skills Training
- Organisational Assessment
- Reducing the Deficit
- Councillors Systems View and Behaviours
- Term Reviews of what we have achieved

Port Stephens holds 4 workshops per year for all Councillors to attend and review the General Manager's Performance.

After lunch I joined Discussion Group A to discuss Roles and Responsibilities. The group work has two questions;

- a) the greatest challenges facing your community over the next 20 years
- b) the greatest challenges facing your council over the next 20 years

The group answer to (a) as ageing infrastructure and lack of money to replace or repair. Question (b) was the lack of staff to carry out the essential council work, and the number of staff retiring over the next 5 years.

Before leaving the Conference I borrowed from the Port Stephens General Manager all the information associated with his presentation and is available to any Councillor who wished to borrow it.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Nil

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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COUNCILLOR J C GRIBBIN