



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

MAYORAL MINUTE

14th August 2007

MM5	RURAL & REGIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY CONFERENCE	FILE: 162 CLR EAG	{Folio No. *}
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on the Rural and Regional Service Delivery Conference held in Dubbo 31st July and 1st August 2007.

DESCRIPTION:

This Conference held in Dubbo on 31st July and 1st August was a very good conference with excellent speakers on topics which are very topical from Kempsey Shire Council's point of view. (Itinerary attached at [Appendix B – Page A5](#)). Unfortunately the conference was not well attended.

Most of the presentations were of relevance to us and the papers will be circulated to councillors when received.

Of particular interest were the issues around Community Engagement and restating the importance of this for any projects to be successful.

Three of the papers were of particular interest here;

- A New Zealand paper on working with Maori populations and other small communities
- Maximizing the advantages of rural lifestyle by Bendigo Bank and
- A Victorian presentation on improving rail services through good community consultation

There were two very good papers on economic development both of which took a very different approach to the subject and both with very good outcomes, one from Armidale Dumaresq Council and the other from Wagga Wagga.

The other presentations of note were two on mental health and the services required - this included an overview of Commonwealth resourcing of various Mental Health initiatives while the other focused on Service delivery in a rural area.

The other outstanding presentation was a paper on Climate change

setting out a scientific paper on ways to measure climate change in a specific area based on a Risk Management approach. While developed for a specific geographical area it would have application in any location.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS

- *Environmental*

Would be useful especially in relation to potential climate change

- *Social*

Has provided some new approaches to Community engagement which will hopefully increase community's input into Council projects.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the information be noted.

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E A Green
MAYOR