



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

14th August 2007

GM3

SEMINARS

FILE: 87

AVB

{Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

To provide details of Seminars attended on the 19th and 20th July in Sydney.

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DESCRIPTION:

I attended the Local Government Leader's Forum in Sydney on 19th July. The Forum was conducted by the Local Government and Shires Association and was addressed by the Minister for Local Government the Hon. Paul Lynch MP. Issues covered by the Minister included new directions for Local Government – feedback is being addressed, diversity of employment in Local Government and the need to stay within the NSW Industrial System. There were a number of questions to the Minister regarding the Code of Conduct, election costs, forced amalgamations and behaviour of private certifiers.

On Friday 20th July Councillors Howell, Hunt, Gribbin, McWilliam, Saul and myself attended the annual seminar hosted by Marsdens.

As well as legal sessions conducted by Marsdens on brothel regulation, Trees (disputes between neighbours) Act and work choices, the Seminar was addressed by:

- Paul Tosi General Manager Campbelltown City Council
- Sam Haddad Director General NSW Government Department of Planning.
- Ian Reynolds General Manager Corporate Growth Centre Commission.
- Gary Payne Director General Department of Local Government
- The Hon Paul Lynch MP Minister for Local Government.

Paul Tosi spoke on large planned growth areas which will be 75% funded by developers and 25% funded by governments. He warned that developers who fund the developments will not want to contribute to Section 94 funding and that any discretionary funding that Council's have will be unable to fund Local Governments share of infrastructure provision.

Sam Haddad spoke about how the Department of Planning objectives relate to the State Plan, that sub Regional plans are due to be released in September and that the current department strategies are set to be finalised in the next six years. Garry Payne spoke on Pecuniary Recurring Interests and Conflict of interest while the Minister answered questions from the floor.

There was also a Potpourri on Local Government issues chaired by Rob Oxley former General manager Wollongong City Council. Five panellists identified LEP template, independent hearing and assessment panels, heritage restoration projects, minimum lot sizes, concessional allotments, code of conduct and the amalgamation of Metropolitan Councils as the current issues impacting on Local Government.

All in all, the seminar did not live up to expectations of future years.

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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A V Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER