



## NOTICE OF MOTION

2 February 2010

<b>NOM2</b>	<b>REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS</b>
	<b>FILE: 1363 KEO {Folio No. *}</b>

I hereby give notice that I intend to move the following motion at the Ordinary meeting of Kempsey Shire Council to be held on Tuesday, 2 February 2010.

***“That the General Manager canvas the Macleay Valley community as to their view on reducing the number of councillors at the next general election from 9 to 7 or 5.”***

### NOTE:

Currently, if there is a declared vacancy on Council in the first three years of that Council's term, a bi-election must be called. This presents a huge impost on the community and is essentially the same cost as a general election which is held each four years. The cost of a bi-election is the same for one vacancy as it is for multiple vacancies.

This Council provides an allocation per annum to help offset the cost of the general election but there is no allocation for an unexpected bi-election.

Prior to the 2008 Local Government elections, the then Minister asked councils if they intended to reduce their numbers at the following scheduled general election and whether there was community support for that move. The Minister then granted an amnesty to such councils in the event of an elected member leaving midterm, ie if a vacancy occurred there would be no requirement to hold a costly bi-election and that council was empowered to operate with a reduced number until the general election.

Should the present Minister be of such a mind at any stage, it would behave this Council well to be prepared – the community will have been consulted.

I understand Port Macquarie-Hastings Council is conducting a similar survey with very interesting results thus far and we could perhaps use Port Macquarie's procedure as a template.

### **MOTION IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

*Nil*

## NOM - 2

- **Social**

*Should allow for more efficient decision making.*

- **Economic (Financial)**

*There will be a small cost in surveying the community but this can be part of our community engagement through the website and written comments. Allowance and travelling allocation is \$18,400 per Councillor per annum so if we reduced the number of Councillors by two it would be a saving of \$36,800 and by four \$73,600 per annum.*

- **Policy or Statutory**

*It would require the Minister to legislate for an exemption on holding a poll for electors.*

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**COUNCILLOR J A C HAYES**