



## MAYOR'S REPORT

14<sup>th</sup> December 2004

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| <b>M3</b> | <b>MID NORTH COAST GROUP OF COUNCILS<br/>FILE: R5-2 CLR JACH</b> |
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### SUMMARY

To inform Council of decisions made by the Group at their meeting held on the 19 November 2004.



The quarterly meeting of the Mid North Coast Group of Councils was held in Bellingen on Friday, 19 November and was attended by the General Manager and myself.

The meeting was addressed by:-

- Dr Judy Henderson, Chairperson Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and
- Mr Bill Calcutt, Executive Officer Mid North Coast Regional Development Board.

Dr Henderson explained that the authority has been slow in getting started with the General Manger just appointed. Other staff are in the process of being engaged. Board meetings are being rotated around the region with the next meeting to be held in Macksville in February. The Authority has been allocated \$21.9 million over three years and intends to be involved with Local Government with the preparation of a Catchment Management Plan, Property Vegetation Plans and Strategic Partnerships. In respect of Property Vegetation Plans protocols need to be developed to prevent duplication of the approval process. Councils State of The Environment Reports will be used as a reference by the Authority.

Mr Bill Calcutt outlined the current programs of the Board ([Appendix B](#)). The Board has engaged Hunter Valley Research Foundation to prepare a Green Paper on Growing Jobs on the Mid North Coast and are seeking comments from Council. The paper is not a public document though a public version is proposed once stakeholder input is received. If the paper generates sufficient interest a regional forum to discuss the formulation of a regional strategy is proposed in the first half on 2005. The Board is also keen to facilitate meetings with Local Government to progress the development of a regional infrastructure plan. MIDGOC has accepted the Boards offer to prepare a formal infrastructure plan following the preparation of a tasking paper and terms of reference.

The Phase Two Report on Resource Sharing (previously distributed to Councillors) was considered at the meeting and it was resolved:-

- a) That a Memorandum of Understanding be prepared for the signature of all Mid North Coast Group Councils supporting the creation of a Mid North Coast Structural Reform Alliance including a statement of the broad objectives of the alliance.
- b) That the Mid North Coast Group of Councils endorse the establishment of Regional Networks for the service areas of Information Technology/GIS, Town Planning, Human Resources, and Works, as proposed at the workshops.
- c) That the Mid North Coast Group of Councils support the Actions and Performance Objectives developed for each of the five focus service areas at the workshops, noting they will be subject to further refinement.
- d) That the General Managers' Group consider the issue of resourcing of the networks for the intervening period until the commencement of the 2005/2006 financial year.
- e) That further consideration of appropriate shared service delivery options/models be developed in consultation with the networks.
- f) That the concept of appointing General Managers to act as delegates for each of the networks be accepted.
- g) That in pursuit of the adopted recommendation 9.4(b) of the initial consultancy report, consideration be given to progressively scheduling further facilitated staff workshops in 2005 to review other resource sharing options identified in the report, on a priority basis.
- h) That the staff be thanked for their enthusiastic approach to the project and their involvement to date.

The General Managers assigned to each Network are:-

**Human Resources/Safety** – Peter Doyle (Bellingen) and Allan Burgess (Kempsey)

**Infrastructure/Works** – Norm McLeod (Gloucester), Bernard Smith (Hastings)

**Information Technology/GIS** - Phil Pinyon (Taree), Keith O'Leary (Great Lakes)

**Planning Services** - Tom Port (Nambucca), Mark Ferguson (Coffs Harbour)

At the meeting I gave a verbal report on the Groups representations to Minister Sartor regarding the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

### ▪ **Environmental**

***Progression of Resource Sharing will enhance environmental management.***

- **Social**

***Progression of Resource Sharing will enhance social issue management***

- **Economic (Financial)**

***Resource Sharing will result in either financial savings or increased service provision.***

- **Policy or Statutory**

**Nil**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **That Council endorse the recommendations of the Mid North Coast Group of Councils in respect of Resource Sharing.**
2. **That Council prepare a submission in respect of the Mid North Coast Regional Development Boards Green Paper on Grouping Jobs on the Mid North Coast.**

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|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>M4</b>          | <b>HEALTH SERVICES</b> |
| <b>FILE: H2-10</b> | <b>CLR JACH</b>        |

**SUMMARY**

Reporting on meetings to develop a partnership to protect and improve the level of health services within Kempsey Shire.



On Thursday 11th November 2004 a meeting was arranged by Mayor Councillor Janet Hayes with Mr Chris Crawford CEO and Ms Kim Browne, North Coast Area Health Service. Also in attendance were Councillors John Bowell, Betty Green and Bob McWilliam.

Mr Crawford advised

- There was support for the appointment of a Senior Surgical Registrar and Orthopaedic Registrar to service both Kempsey District and Port Macquarie Base Hospitals
- Discussion will be arranged to encourage Surgeons / Specialists to service operation lists at Kempsey District Hospital and to provide ample time for clinical services whilst in Kempsey.
- The appointment of another Physician to assist with services and intensive care and coronary care (to reduce costs with Locums) was well underway
- Negotiations are underway to provide incentives to retain career medical officers
- An additional Obstetrician GP had been appointed

- A networking co-ordinator is to be appointed whose responsibility would include the provision for the upskilling of Kempsey Shire GPs by attending Port Macquarie Base Hospital together with the exchange of views when specialists GP's visit Kempsey District Hospital
- An after hours clinic is proposed at Tweed Heads which will be a benchmark for additional clinics such as at Kempsey
- The provision of funding for CAT scan and ultrasound equipment at Kempsey District Hospital will be considered.
- The development of a new Hospital at Kempsey was certainly being considered and a public – private partnership in the planning and construction is a possibility
- The inclusion of Kempsey within the Rural Doctors Network would be investigated.
- The development of the land opposite the Hospital will be investigated bearing in mind the provision of a multi purpose building to include consulting rooms and accommodation.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004 a further meeting was held at Council:-

#### PRESENT:

Professor Jenny Graham (Executive Dean of Health & Applied Sciences, Southern Cross University) Facilitator of the Meeting.

Councillors Bowell, Green, Hunt and McWilliam (Kempsey Shire Council)

Mr Laurie Clay – (Durri Medical Clinic)

Dr Carol Booth

Dr Col Farquarson

Dr Peter Ackerley

Dr Leo Smith

Mr Brian Calford – (Rotary Club of Kempsey)

#### APOLIGIES:

Rotary Club of West Kempsey

Dr Harry Johnson

Ms Maureen McGovern (Mid North Coast Area Health Service) advised in writing:

*“The combined Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers Area Health Services have been in consultation to develop a new clinical services plan that will determine the direction for the new North Coast Area Health Service. The draft plan is due to be released early in the New Year. Once the final plan has been released I would be in a better position to answer the matters for discussion”.*

Mr Chris Crawford (Chief Executive Officer – North Coast Area Health Service)

Professor Graham requested those present to list their priorities for health, listed below:-

- New Hospital with a Private Wing
- Adequate Retention of Surgeons

- Specialist availability
- Hospital to Home
- Lack of Finances
- Mental Health Community follow up
- Health Education beginning at pre-School
- Promote good health – include in the school curriculum (Local – National “Holistic”)
- Prevention of Habits – eg smoking, early pregnancy, alcohol
- More information to public re: availability and non-availability
- More use of bulk billing
- Pensioner Work Issues
- Dental Health
- Networking Acute services
- Succession Planning
- Comprehensive on-ground services
- Chronic Disease Management
- Multiplicity of inputs and locations and Silos
- Personal Responsibilities – Nutrition / Exercise
- Employment
- Resources – all women
- Transport – IPTAS
- Impact of Gaol
- Lack of Therapies
- Acute infrastructure has to be implemented to retain G.P.’s to our area
- Multi purpose building opposite Hospital (consulting rooms, accommodation, etc).

It was suggested by Cr. Green that Councils Community Services Committee is the appropriate area for development of a “Health Vision / Strategy” for the Kempsey Shire, with a sub-committee to be formed with representation from Durri Aboriginal Medical Service, the GP’s and Kempsey District Hospital with input from the stakeholders.

It is imperative that Council is the driver in the development of this Health Services Plan.

Professor Graham stated that she would be happy to associate with such a sub-committee and advised Southern Cross University has resources to assist.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Mr Chris Crawford and Ms Kim Browne North Coast Area health Service.**
- 2. That Professor Graham be thanked for her support and invited to be an ex-officio member of the proposed sub-committee.**
- 3. That Council’s Community Services Committee be requested to establish a sub-committee to develop a “Health Vision /**

**Strategy” for Kempsey Shire under the auspice of Council’s Social Plan.**

- 4. That Durri Aboriginal Medical Service, General Practitioners and Kempsey District Hospital be invited to provide representation on the sub-committee.**
- 5. That a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr Chris Crawford CEO North Coast Area Health Service, Professor Jenny Graham the relevant stakeholders and Mr Bob Walsh CEO Port Macquarie Base Hospital.**
- 6. That a meeting be arranged with Cr. Rob Drew Mayor of Hastings Council to suggest the establishment of a similar committee which will allow the matter of networking of health services within the two areas to be progressed.**

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**J A C Hayes**  
**MAYOR**