

Section: MAYORAL MINUTE 12 December 2006

Item: 05.029/06 **CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT – LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SHIRES ASSOCIATION**

### REPORT SUMMARY

A report on the Mayor's attendance at the Local Government & Shires Association sponsored one day summit on climate change.

### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Minute on the Mayor's attendance at the Local Government & Shires Association sponsored one day forum on climate change be received and noted.
2. That Council staff investigate possible Clarence Valley based Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation measures and report thereon to Council in due course.

### BACKGROUND

A Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Summit was arranged at short notice by the Associations and was conducted on 27 November 2006 at the Country Embassy MLC Centre, Sydney. I was able to attend en route to the National General Assembly of Local Government in Canberra.

### ISSUES

The Summit secured an oversubscribed attendance of around 220 persons.

I listened for the first time to a keynote address by a Member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, Mr Peter Cosier, who is a founding member of the Group and a former policy adviser to the Australian Environment Minister, Robert Hill. Another keynote speech was provided by the CSIRO Principal Research Scientist, Kevin Hennessy.

Both addresses were compelling in terms of dispelling the myth of lack of scientific evidence and certainty about global warming and the impact of greenhouse emissions. Copies of each address are attached as is a media release from the Associations about the summit.

Speakers promoted the urgent need for introduction by the Australian Government of "carbon pricing" which inter alia would accelerate the provision of clean coal technology, presently still regarded as being a decade away.

The LG&SA are preparing for councils a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Capacity Building Project and Action pack which will be available by August 2007. The Associations also now have a dedicated Climate Change web site which I would encourage Council staff to utilise.

Clarence Valley Council would do well to participate in the Project and to use its findings to address climate change in our local government area. I believe that there is scope for councils on the Northern Rivers to cooperate on this vital issue.

Clr Ian Tiley  
MAYOR

