

Section:

MAYORAL MINUTE

date

Item: Membership Mid North Coast Group of Councils.

File: File No

REPORT SUMMARY

The Mayor recently participated by invitation in a meeting of the Mid North Coast Group of Councils. Council has been invited to join the group.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept an invitation to join the Mid North Coast Group of Councils (MIDGOC) and the Mayor and/or General Manager participate in Group meetings when convenient.

BACKGROUND

On 31st May 2006 I attended a meeting of MIDGOC in Taree at the invitation of Greater Taree City Council Mayor Eddie Loftus. The group is constituted of the Mayors and General Managers of the Councils of Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Nambucca, Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Gloucester. The latter three Councils are also members of Hunter ROC. MIDGOC is a grouping of Councils which meets four times annually, where the venue alternates each meeting and the GM of the host Council performs a secretariat function for three months.

The Group is primarily concerned with being an effective strategic council's alliance, and aims to share knowledge and cooperate effectively for the benefit of member Councils. It appears to place a lesser emphasis on lobbying issues as for example does Noroc.

The 31st May meeting resolved to invite CVC to membership of MIDGOC. A letter of invitation is in the attachments.

ISSUES

At the recent Shires Association Annual conference the Minister for Local Government, in opening the Conference, stated his strong support of strategic alliances.

I have indicated to CVC previously that our Council's issues of interest and concern do not lie exclusively to the north of the Clarence Valley. In April I met with and commenced a dialogue with Armidale-Dumaresq Council and will attend a New England Strategic Alliance two day conference in August for the purpose of strengthening that western linkage.

The GM and I have engaged with Coffs Council, where CVC has common interests and issues such as the Regional Water Supply, policing, Pacific Highway upgrade and the Mid North Coast Regional strategy.

The Pacific Highway upgrade, Regional Strategy, Sustainable Regions funding and a substantial range of major issues for local councils such as Sea Change, infrastructure needs, financial sustainability, strategic planning etc are of common interest to Noroc and MIDGOC councils. The MIDGOC meetings present information exchange and networking opportunities.

At the 31st May MIDGOC meeting, Kempsey Customer Service section presented on their quality assurance customer procedure which highlighted greater consistency and efficiency in that Council's dealings with the public. Great Lakes Council has recently acquired the system from Kempsey council. I have suggested to our GM that there would be merit in examining the Kempsey system

At the same meeting Taree Council described an economic development driver that its economic development team has recently instituted. A special Council website ("Welcome to Manning Valley – Relocate here") has been established which matches skills of people from around the world who want to move and work in the Taree district, to local businesses that are seeking specific skills usually not attainable locally. I have referred the Greater Taree initiative to The Executive manager of CVC's economic Development Unit for a closer examination.

The next MIDGOC meeting is scheduled for Port Macquarie on 23rd August and will address inter alia, funding for disability services and the MNC Regional Planning Strategy, and will receive and discuss crime and anti-social matters with the Regional Police Commanders.

The recommendation suggests that CVC be represented at these meetings when convenient i.e. when conducted in the northern part of the MIDGOC area. I believe there is good value in the Mayor and or GM attending as regularly as possible.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil except time and minimal travel costs.

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Clr Ian Tiley
MAYOR
27th June 2006