

REPORTS THROUGH THE GENERAL MANAGER

a14 National Sea Change Taskforce

ORIGIN:

General Manager

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

Council has received a request to join the National Sea Change Taskforce. Reproduced in the body of the report is a letter from Cr Joe Natoli, Chair, National Sea Change Taskforce (Mayor, Maroochy Shire Council, Queensland).

The letter details the objectives and the membership fees. In the case of Tweed Shire the fee would be \$3,000 per annum.

The Taskforce, established in November 2004, evolved from a group of coastal councils covered by the then CEO, Maroochy Shire, Mr Kelvin Spiller. Tweed Shire had not been invited to take part in the meetings as Mr Spiller advised that they would be looking at ways to catch up with Tweed Shire with regard to land use and infrastructure planning for the developing coast and its extensive use of Section 94 and 64 plans. Over the preceding period the General Manager shared advice of much of the Tweed Shire's activities with Mr Spiller.

The minutes of the inaugural general meeting have previously been forwarded to all Councillors, however they are reproduced in the body of the report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council determines this report.

REPORT:

Letter dated 4 February 2005 from Cr Joe Natoli, Chair-National Sea Change Taskforce

4 February 2005

Dr John Griffin
General Manager
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Dear John,

Membership of National Sea Change Taskforce

As you may be aware the Taskforce was formally established at an inaugural general meeting held in Canberra on 10 November. Minutes of the inaugural general meeting, setting out complete details of the discussion and resolutions, have recently been forwarded to you.

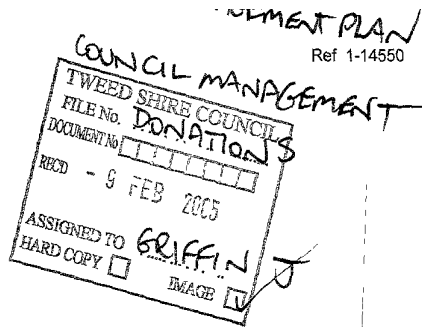
The Taskforce has been formed as a national body representing councils in coastal areas in all Australian States. The principal objectives of the Taskforce are:

- To support and advance the interests of coastal councils and their constituencies;
- To provide national leadership in addressing the impact of the sea change phenomenon;
- To work collaboratively with local State and Federal Governments to develop a coordinated approach to managing population and tourism growth in coastal areas.

On behalf of the executive of the National Sea Change Taskforce I would like to invite the Tweed Shire Council to become a member of the Taskforce.

It is our sincere hope that you do decide to join our group. We believe it is vital for high growth coastal councils to work together to address the social, economic and environmental impact of the sea change phenomenon on their communities. By joining the Taskforce you will help to strengthen our representations to State and Federal Governments on behalf of the communities that we represent.

Members will receive regular updates on research such as that currently being undertaken in collaboration with The University of Sydney. In addition, member councils will be entitled to reduced rates at the workshops and conferences related to sea change that we are planning for 2005 and beyond.



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The year ahead will be a very active one as we develop a national strategy to ensure that coastal councils receive the support they so urgently need to meet the demands being placed on them by rapid population and tourism growth. It is our firm belief that by acting collectively we are more likely to achieve our objectives than by attempting to deal with these issues individually.

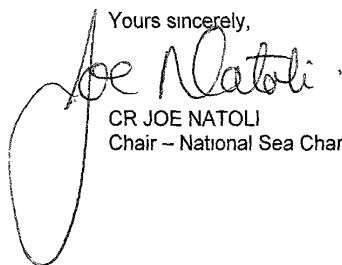
Once you advise that the Tweed Shire Council wishes to join the Taskforce we will issue an invoice to your Council for the membership fee of \$ 3,000.00 (including GST) for the year ending 30 September 2005, which is based on the following funding formula:

<i>Councils with population less than 5,000</i>	\$ 500
<i>Councils with population between 5,001 and 25,000</i>	\$ 1,000
<i>Councils with population between 25,001 and 50,000</i>	\$ 2,250
<i>Councils with population between 50,001 and 100,000</i>	\$ 3,000
<i>Councils with population more than 100,000</i>	\$ 4,500

Should you like a copy of the information package to present to council on joining the Taskforce or if you have any questions in relation to this matter please contact the Taskforce Executive Officer Alan Stokes at (02) 9908 2401 or email him at stokes@bigpond.net.au

We look forward to working with you to address the impact of rapid population and tourism growth in coastal areas in the interests of safeguarding the welfare of our residents and the environment

Yours sincerely,



CR JOE NATOLI
Chair - National Sea Change Taskforce

National Sea Change Task Force Newsletter Issue 1

CEO National Sea Change Task Force Newsletter – Issue 1

There have been a number of developments since the Sea Change Summit on 1 and 2 February.

On 12 February State representatives of the Sea Change Task Force had their second meeting, this time in Melbourne, to discuss future plans, including arrangements for our next event - a Sea Change Conference for CEOs and elected representatives in May

The Queensland Premier last week met with SE Queensland Councils to discuss the future growth and management of the region and the operation of the new Office of Urban Management that has been established to manage growth

It seemed to me the best way to keep CEOs advised would be to establish a Sea Change newsletter. So here is issue No 1 -

Task Force Meeting

Membership

State representatives of the Task Force met in Melbourne on 12 February and planned future action

It was agreed that contact would be established with the 10 CEOs who could not attend the summit to confirm membership of the group. The relevant councils are Mornington Peninsula (VIC) Casey (VIC), Tweed (NSW) Wyong (NSW) Coffs Harbour (NSW) Shoalhaven (NSW), Mandurah (WA) Sterling (WA), Kingborough (TAS) and Palmerston (NT)

Other councils being invited to join include Alexandrina (Port Elliot and Goolwa SA) Victor Harbour (SA) Busselton (WA) Augusta-Margaret River (WA) Bunbury (WA) Douglas (QLD) Isis (QLD) Bega Valley (NSW) Eurobodalla (NSW) Port Stephens (NSW) Nambucca (NSW) Gosford (NSW) Great Lakes (NSW) and Ballina (NSW)

Bunbury (WA), Isis (QLD) and Kingborough (TAS) have already indicated they want to join the group and will be attending the next Conference in May

Action Plan

Elements of the Action Plan agreed at the Sea Change Summit were allocated to the committee for follow-up –

1. Advocacy – Establish a national task force of CEOs from Sea Change councils to develop a specific action plan to be recommended to Mayors and Councillors of their councils to gain the cooperation of State and Federal Governments (Kelvin Spiller)
2. Advocate the development of a specific Sea Change Funding Program to Federal and State Governments and oppositions to assist councils and regions to deal with the issues of rapid population growth (Jeff Tate – SA)
3. Planning – Seek the assistance of State Governments to establish coordinated regional plans that provide greater certainty about the extent and rate of growth in sea change communities (Charles Johnson – WA)
4. Develop a framework for identifying and disseminating examples of best practice strategic planning at regional and local levels that have achieved successful outcomes for sea change communities. (Pamela Westing – NSW)

ADDENDUM

5 Infrastructure & Services – Conduct a detailed survey of sea change councils to quantify the current shortfall for infrastructure and services and to identify future needs and priorities. (Kelvin Spiller)

6. Identify alternative funding options for the timely provision of infrastructure, for example - betterment taxes, developer contributions and public private partnerships (David Farmer – QLD)

7 Community engagement – Ensure community ownership and participation in key growth decisions through exercises such as community visioning processes. (Kay Rundle – VIC)

Database of MPs – Details To Be Forwarded To Maroochy

All CEOs have been requested to provide details of their local Federal and State MPs, electorates, plus contact details. This information to be e-mailed to hulmr@maroochy.qld.gov.au

Role of Task Force

The role of the State representatives of the Task Force selected on 2 February is to focus on the membership of the group and the action plan and act in an advisory capacity to Councils and an elected Task Force of mayors to be elected at the Sea Change Conference in May

Sea Change Conference – 16, 17 May 2004

Preparations are being made for the Sea Change Conference to be held on 16 and 17 May, 2004 The proposed venue is the Novotel Twin Waters Resort at Mudjumba, near the Sunshine Coast Airport

The objective of the Conference is to brief Mayors and other elected representatives of Sea Change Councils on the issues relating to rapid population growth and the need for the Action Plan agenda to meet future demand for essential infrastructure and services

Bernard Salt has agreed to be one of the speakers An invitation has also been issued to The Hon Terry Mackenroth, Deputy Premier of Queensland and Minister for the newly-created Office of Urban Management, which has been established by the Queensland Government to make sure that future growth and development in SE Queensland is better co-ordinated. Mr Mackenroth has indicated he would be available to attend, subject to Cabinet arrangements

An invitation has also been issued to the Prime Minister, The Hon John Howard, to be keynote speaker at the Conference Dinner on Sunday, 16 May

The Sea Change Conference will be an important step in our efforts to ensure that we can meet the challenge of growth in coastal areas around Australia It will provide Mayors and elected representatives with background information on the 'big shift' of population to lifestyle areas and it will chart a future course for gaining the cooperation of Federal and State Governments in addressing the challenge of growth and implementing the Action Plan prepared at the 1 and 2 February Summit.

We will keep you advised as we firm up arrangements and speakers for the Conference and we will advise how to book for this event in the weeks ahead

Research To Be Undertaken

The Task Force agreed that extensive research is required to prepare a convincing submission for Mayors and other councillors to use in approaches to MPs. This research is to include detailed estimates of the funding shortfall for infrastructure and services in sea change communities

It was also suggested that the assistance of consultants such as KPMG, Access Economics and Brian Hiratsis be sought in relation to preparing submissions on behalf of the Sea Change group of councils

Funding for Research

It was suggested that councils involved in the Sea Change group contribute seed funding in order to undertake research, administration and media activity on behalf of the Task Force. It was suggested that councils with populations of more than 50,000 contribute \$5,000 and that councils with populations under 50,000 contribute \$2,500. There was strong endorsement at both February meetings of the Task Force of the need for seed funding to undertake the necessary activities outlined in this report.

I will be contacting all CEOs over the next week in relation to the specific research to be undertaken and to discuss the wish of the Task Force for all Councils to provide some funding for this to occur prior to the 16 and 17 May Conference.

Queensland Office of Urban Management

As indicated earlier I attended a meeting of SE Queensland councils on 19 February in Brisbane called by the Deputy Premier, Terry Mackenroth. The attending were welcomed by the Premier, Peter Beattie, who called on Terry Mackenroth to outline how the new Office would operate.

Mr Mackenroth indicated that the new Office would be part of the Department of Local Government and Planning but would report through the Director-General directly to himself rather than to the new Minister for Local Government.

Premier Beattie said the new Office would provide the 'teeth' to ensure future growth and development in SE Queensland is better coordinated. He said the population of South East Queensland is expected to increase to 3.5 million by 2021 and that this growth would present a number of challenges, including

providing land for housing and economic activity,
meeting the need for hard infrastructure, such as roads, and
maintaining the liveability of the region, including protecting the environment.

The Premier said the new Office would coordinate the work of Government Departments and agencies and local government and would oversee the process of integrated regional planning.

The Task Force welcomes the creation of the new Office of Urban Management as a step towards closer cooperation between local and State Governments and will monitor its future operation with interest. We will report on its operations in future newsletters so that we can assess whether a similar approach could be effective in other states.

Kelvin Spiller
Chair - CEO National Sea Change Task Force

LEGAL/RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER:

Nil.

ADDENDUM