



COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING
(PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
COFF AND CASTLE STREETS, COFFS HARBOUR
15 SEPTEMBER 2005

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COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
SUPPLEMENTARY MEETING
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15 SEPTEMBER 2005

Mayor and Councillors

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

21 NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (NOROC) CONFERENCE

Purpose:

To inform Council of the outcomes of the second Pacific Highway Summit facilitated by the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC), which was held in Port Macquarie on Friday, 9 September 2005.

Description of Item:

NOROC held its first Pacific Highway Summit in Ballina in May 2005. At that conference, the Summit participants agreed to:

- Convey to governments the fundamental impact and importance of the Pacific Highway on the communities through which it passes
- Note the significant and increasing importance of the Pacific Highway as a major transport route for business, industry and tourism
- Recognise the increasing anxiety within the community about the safety of travelling on the Pacific Highway
- Deplore the appalling and unacceptably high loss of human life caused in vehicle crashes on the Pacific Highway

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21 Northern Rivers Regional Organisation Of Councils (Noroc) Conference ...(Cont'd)

Attendees from the local government areas along the entire length of the Pacific Highway formed a Taskforce to lobby State and Federal Governments to achieve greater funding for the Highway immediately and to complete the upgrading, between Newcastle and the Queensland border, to dual carriageway standard by 2016.

Council was invited to send representatives to the second conference, which was also attended by delegates from each local council between Newcastle and the Queensland border, the business sector and Chambers of Commerce.

Topics under discussion included:

- The commitment to funding and research required
- The timing of the plan from 2006 – 2016
- Planning towards outcomes in 2030
- Implementation, responsibility and accountability

Council Attendees:

The Mayor and Acting GM attended. The Mayor made an opening address to the delegates and took part in a 'Mayors' Perspectives' Forum.

Sustainability Assessment:

The environmental, social and economic impacts of the Pacific Highway on the communities along its length are well documented. The purpose of the conference was to press for those impacts to be recognised, and action taken to alleviate them, by the State and Federal Governments.

Issues:

The Pacific Highway Taskforce now includes all local councils between Newcastle and the Queensland border together with NRMA Motoring & Services.

At the conclusion of the second Pacific Highway Summit, the Taskforce issued the following statement:

1. That the Taskforce repeats its call for immediate additional funding from both the State and Federal Governments to ensure that the Pacific Highway is upgraded to a dual carriageway between Newcastle and the Queensland Border within 10 years.
2. That this Pacific Highway Taskforce works closely with tourism, business, community and other key organisations and stakeholders.
3. That the Taskforce develop and put into action a documented and clearly defined strategy, supported by an immediate and extensive public awareness campaign that reflects, demonstrates and supports the community's desire for a Highway upgrade.

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21 Northern Rivers Regional Organisation Of Councils (Noroc) Conference ...(Cont'd)

4. That the Taskforce lobby the State Government to sign up to the Federal Government's road funding package, Auslink, and that the State and Federal Governments be requested to commit to a new funding agreement that sees the completion of the Highway within 10 years.
5. That the Pacific Highway Taskforce lobby State and Federal Governments to generate public discussion about viable funding mechanisms such as toll ways or infrastructure bonds as a means of funding completion of the upgrade within 10 years.
6. That a working group be established, including representatives from each Regional Organisation of Councils and NRMA Motoring & Services. The working group will undertake research, analysis and provide advice on priorities and strategies to achieve dual carriageway.
7. The working group identifies short-term safety measures to improve the safety of the Highway until the dual carriageway is completed.

Other Issues:

NRMA Motoring & Services pledged to donate \$1m into the fighting fund set up to support the public awareness campaign.

There was disappointment among the delegates that no Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) personnel, State or Federal Ministers attended the conference despite being invited by the organisers.

Recommendation:

That Council note the outcomes of the second Pacific Highway Summit and be aware that the Taskforce remains fully committed to its aims.