



News In Brief

NEW PITTWATER GM Mark Ferguson



Mark was General Manager at Coffs Harbour City Council from April 1998. Prior to that he was a Director at that Council for eight years and has a total of 27 years' experience in Local Government.

Mark will champion the SHOROC Planning Portfolio with an important focus on Sub-regional planning and Transport issues.

Welcome to the team Mark!

Combined ROCs/LGA Presidents support Sub- regional planning process

SHOROC in association with other metropolitan ROCs is continuing to lobby support for local government to be an equal partner in the development and implementation of the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy.

The SHOROC Executive has endorsed Sub-regional planning based upon our existing ROC boundary comprising Mosman, Manly, Pittwater and Warringah.

SHOROC is also seeking Planning Reform Funding support to develop a regional Employment Strategy and an Integrated Local Transport Plan.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT LEP TEMPLATE

SHOROC welcomes a more streamlined approach to local planning as Councils have been developing Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) at enormous cost to satisfy ever-changing regulatory requirements. However, any plans to rush this process will undermine its credibility.

The State Government has prepared a draft template (a Standard LEP) that will force Councils to regulate development in certain ways. The Standard LEP template will apply to all Councils across the State regardless of the differences between each local community.

The Standard LEP template may limit each community's ability to guide the nature of future development in their area and Council's scope to reflect the community's vision through local planning controls, and retain what makes each area unique.

The current mandating of uses and the restricted number of zones in the proposed template does not allow for proper planning for a balance of residential and commercial uses. We believe there are not enough zones to allow detailed local planning to be achieved.

Examples of how the Standard LEP Template may affect the local community?

- Every parcel of land can have a neighborhood shop on it with no size limit.
- Granny flats and dual occupancies can be sub-divided without consent.
- People in the vicinity of a heritage item will require development consent to trim a tree.

These are just a few of the changes, which if introduced by local government would have required a formal public consultative process. Councils are seeking more flexibility in defining their zones to allow the character of their local area to be retained.

SHOROC is concerned that the Department of Planning (DoP) may not achieve what it set out to do, that is to provide *clarity* and *certainty* for local government and the community.

Given that ROCs are working with the DoP in developing Sub-regional plans to inform the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy process we would like to see provision within the Standard LEP for a regional context.

Some member Councils have expressed concern about the lack of public awareness of the changes proposed.

Submissions will be accepted by Department of Planning by email up until COB Friday 4 November 2005. You can view the draft Standard LEP Template and information package on the DoP's website: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planning_reforms.

SHOROC Executive welcomes two new members

Following recent Mayoral elections in Pittwater and Mosman, we welcome Clr Alex McTaggart and Clr Denise Wilton to our Executive Committee.

We also wish to thank the former Mayors, Clr Lynne Czinner of Pittwater and Clr Shirley Jenkins of Mosman, for their valuable contribution as advocates for our region.

Introducing Pittwater Mayor Clr Alex McTaggart



Alex needs no introduction, he has lived in Pittwater all his life and is a keen surfer, swimmer and active member of Avalon Lions Club.

With a Councillor track record in community service and community consultation, Alex's main focus is community empowerment through the formation of grass roots action groups and working parties.



SHOROC will profile the Mayor of Mosman Clr Denise Wilton in our Summer 2005 Issue.



Skyjuice Founder Rhett Butler (bottom R) demonstrates the water treatment technology for SHOROC delegation (L to R) including Pittwater Mayor Clr Alex McTaggart, Mosman Mayor Clr Denise Wilton, Clr Shirley Jenkins, Clr Patricia Harvey, Clr Anne Connon, Clr Simon Menzies and Pittwater Clr Lynne Czinner.

COUNCILS SUPPORT SKYJUICE PROJECT

SHOROC councils are taking the initiative and supporting the installation of a pilot water treatment plant in Indonesia. Nine months on and one of the major challenges in most Tsunami affected regions is access to clean drinking water.

Clean Up Australia and SKYJUICE have announced the launch of SKYstation – a sustainable water plant they believe can significantly assist in providing safe drinking water for 1.4 billion people. The aim is to establish a network of community safe drinking water installations in developing countries such as Indonesia and Sri Lanka, which were devastated by the Tsunami that hit South-East Asia earlier this year.

The first showcase plant in Indonesia will be demonstrated in a school community in Meulaboh, Bandeh Aceh, a community that is receiving aid through the AID-4 program.

There was an official show of support by SHOROC Councils at a launch on Friday 7 October held at Mosman Council.

SHOROC DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

- 7** 8.30-10am Management Committee Meeting (W)
- 28** 2.30pm-5pm Special Management Meeting (W)

October

- 5** 8.30-10am Management Committee Meeting (W)
- 22** 22-26 October, LGA Conference 2005 Mudgee

November

- 2** 8.30-10am Management Committee Meeting (Pitt)
- 7** 7-10 October, ALGA Conference 2005, Canberra
- 30** 3-5pm Executive Committee Meeting & AGM (Manly)