



Enquiries to : Mr Tom Port  
Phone No : 6568 2555  
Our Ref : P1  
Your Ref :

4 April 2005

The Committee Manager  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

## **INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION IN COASTAL GROWTH AREAS**

This is Council's initial and brief Submission designed to catch the deadline of 6 May 2005. The Infrastructure needs have not been fully costed. However, these can be extended upon as required.

### Introduction

The New South Wales Legislative Assembly - Standing Committee on Public Works has commenced an inquiry into infrastructure provision in coastal growth areas, to examine issues relating to population growth and the planning, regulatory and cost implications of delivery of basic and human services infrastructure in these areas.

### Justification

Although the Nambucca may not be experiencing growth to the same extent of other coastal areas, all of our growth has been the result of local effort ie not artificially forced nor reliant of the establishment of regional offices on the part of Government Departments (although this would also be very nice); our growth rate is positive because of our coastal location and amenable climate.

### Generally

Our requirements extend beyond basic and human services ie we have a badly silted river which is having an adverse impact on boating, tourism and the fishing industry; we lack industrial land at a number of locations other than Macksville and we often have to lobby to retain some of those Government services that we already have to the standard that we expect eg rail and transport services, telecommunications, hospital services, etc.

We are also required as a Local Government Authority to live within rate pegging and on occasions we cannot afford to participate in programs offering government funding because we cannot afford to meet the ongoing operating costs.

Because of our attractive climate and quieter lifestyle we are attractive to retirees and yet we would like the opportunity to widen or broaden the make-up of our population; many of our younger citizens leave the area seeking employment and many of our younger families are orientated towards Coffs Harbour for their education and social activities – it is estimated that more than 17 busloads of school students travel to Coffs Harbour each day to John Paul College, Bishop DrUITT and the triple Campus.

However, this is not necessarily negative if we recognise that we are part of a coastal region.

We have our own drawing power in that we attract high school students from Stuarts Point to Macksville; the cinema attracts a wide patronage from Kempsey to Bellingen and our shopping complexes attract patronage from Bellingen, Urunga and Stuarts Point – all on a regular basis.

### Infrastructure

Council's initial submission points out the following infrastructure needs:

- Improved community services - emphasis on frail, aged and disabled
- Nambucca River upgrade
- Forward planning – strategic/structure planning – given our coastal location we will be faced with pressures of growth before too many years have passed
- Industrial land and job creation opportunities
- Water supply upgrading
- Sewerage systems upgrade
- Upgraded health and medical facilities – hospital, visiting specialists, etc.
- Telecommunications – stocktake and upgrade
- Waste management ie recycling, composting
- Railway infrastructure replacement ie over bridges deteriorated
- Transport facilities between the various villages and towns

Finally, the authorities should recognise the fact that the local population is actually paying quite heavily to safeguard and maintain part of the National Heritage ie that coastal strip within the Nambucca Shire Council's Local Government Area.  
Please acknowledge receipt of this initial Submission.

Yours faithfully



**TOM PORT**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

TRP:ca

Cc Mr Andrew Stoner MP