



*Councils Reference:*

T.350.00 BW/ AP

*Telephone enquiries to:*

Brian Wilkinson

6 May 2005

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

Fax 9230 3052

Dear Sir

Reference is made to the Committee of Inquiry being undertaken in relation to Infrastructure provision in coastal growth areas.

Richmond Valley Council has provided detailed information relating to its area to the National Sea Change Taskforce and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) for incorporation into submissions being submitted by those organisations. It is emphasised that Council regards this Inquiry as an essential and important step in identifying and recognising the infrastructure needs and issues facing Councils (and communities).

The following is provided as substantiating information in regard to matters being examined by the Inquiry:

- (a) Richmond Valley Council, along with other Councils on the North Coast, have been participating in processes with the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) to prepare a Far North Coast Strategy. The following regional issues have been identified as part of that process and reflect matters relating to infrastructure:
- Structure Planning and scenarios work (to identify a hierarchy of towns, no-go areas, staging of growth area, etc linked to infrastructure and employment).
  - Infrastructure assessment, forecasting and prioritisation.

*All correspondence should be addressed to:*

**The General Manager,  
RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL**

*Administration Office: Cnr. Walker St. & Graham Place (Locked Bag 10) CASINO NSW 2470*


- Preparation of Infrastructure Investment Strategy.
- Traffic modelling and future corridor identification based on needs.
- Investigation of affordable housing and design issues, to implement new targets or standards.
- Working with South East Queensland to identify and address cross-border issues.
- Supporting the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board in the preparation of the Regional Industry and Economic Working paper.
- Biodiversity and other constraints mapping and development of a Regional Biodiversity Agreement.
- Development of Strategies for Coastline and Waterways Conservation and Water and Energy Conservation.

(b) On 10 May 2005, Council will be considering its Draft Management Plan and Budget for the 2005/2008 period. The preparation of that budget has highlighted the following:

- A list of desirable works/projects with an estimated cost of \$6.7 m that were considered but not able to be funded in the draft estimates/budget.
- Over the next 20-25 years, improvements and upgrade to sewerage infrastructure in the Council area will require funding of some \$66m. Due to recent changes in the Country Towns Water and Sewerage Program, government subsidy will most likely not be available for these projects. Accordingly, Council has formulated a projected financial plan to finance the necessary works (utilising loan funding). This will result in the annual residential sewerage charge increasing from \$417.00 to \$880.00 to enable a sufficient revenue stream to be created to enable works to occur. It should be noted that costs of \$22m are required in the next two (2) years to fund the upgrade of the treatment plant and associated environmental processes at Evans Head. The centre has been subject to substantial growth and has peak "population" periods during holiday seasons.

Council would appreciate the above information being considered as part of the Inquiry.

Yours faithfully

  
Brian Wilkinson  
GENERAL MANAGER