

# SHOROC INCORPORATED

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Wednesday 24 February 2016, 1.00-3.00pm  
33/42-46 Wattle Road, Brookvale NSW

### Board Members

Cr Jean Hay AM	Mayor of Manly, SHOROC President
Mark Ferguson	General Manager Pittwater Council, SHOROC Treasurer
Henry Wong	General Manager Manly Council
Veronica Lee	General Manager Mosman Council
Kylie Ferguson	Deputy Mayor Pittwater Council

### In attendance

Dominic Johnson	Executive Director SHOROC
Katrina Hull	Office Manager SHOROC

## Item 1 Welcome and apologies

Cr Jean Hay chaired the meeting and welcomed those attending. Apologies were received from Cr Peter Abelson, Cr Michael Regan, Cr Jacqueline Townsend and Rik Hart. Cr Townsend was represented by Deputy Mayor, Kylie Ferguson.

## Item 2 Minutes and review of actions arising

### 2.1 Minutes of 25 November 2015 Board meeting and review of actions arising

The minutes of the 25 November 2015 are attached (**Tab A**).

A brief report on the actions arising from the 25 November 2015 Board meeting is attached (**Tab B**).

#### **RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Adopted the minutes of the 25 November 2015 meeting.
- Received and noted the report on the actions arising from the 25 November 2015 Board meeting.

*Moved Henry Wong/seconded Veronica Lee*

*Carried unanimously*

## Item 3 Items for decision and discussion

### 3.1 Fit for the Future and the future of SHOROC

**REGIONAL PRIORITY** Strengthen regional model to improve capacity and to respond to NSW Government local government and planning reform agenda.

**SHOROC ACTION** Strengthen collaboration of northern Sydney councils including convening ongoing meetings of the Mayors and GMs of northern Sydney and leading consideration of alternative governance models to match NSW planning subregion.

#### **SUMMARY**

Following a series of discussions in 2015 and the new Executive Director meeting with each of the SHOROC Council General Managers, a number of options are identified regarding the future of SHOROC with regard to the proposed council amalgamations. In particular the previous work considering a joining of NSROC and SHOROC and the interim future of current SHOROC staff, as well as issues relating to continuity, current projects and political momentum provide a framework which favours an interim option of continuing SHOROC as an individual entity until June 2017, at which time the newly elected councils can determine the future of the organisation and its role.

#### **REPORT**

Following the appointment for the delegates for the two proposed merger models of the SHOROC Councils, a series of public meetings have been held with the possibility of further meetings being requested by some Councils. While there is no certainty regarding either the outcome of the merger proposals nor the timing in which such mergers would be enacted, consideration needs to be given to the future of SHOROC should the merger proposals proceed. There is some belief in the sector based on the timing of the delegates reports and information provided by the Department of Local Government, that should the amalgamations proceed it will be by proclamation as early as May, taking effect as of 1 July 2016.

At the last Board Meeting of SHOROC on 25 November 2015 it was resolved that in regard to the future of SHOROC:

- To retain the status quo and operation of SHOROC in the immediate term and subject to further review.
- To continue to partner with NSROC and strengthen collaboration of councils.
- Following the announcement by the State Govt on Fit for the Future, the Board can call Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss outcomes and implications of this decision.

It should also be noted that currently the contracts for the current Executive Director, the Regional Procurement Officer and the new Office Manager all expire on 20 June 2016. Similarly there are a number of issues regarding current initiatives, projects and SHOROC office specific matters relating to leases etc that require some clarity as to the future of SHOROC and its staff. It is therefore timely to consider what is the preferred approach regarding the future of SHOROC.

#### **OPTIONS**

Whilst there are a large number of possible options regarding SHOROC's future should the mergers proceed as proposed or in a similar manner to that proposed, the following represent the most obvious choices :

#### **Disband SHOROC**

This Option would result in SHOROC being dissolved at or after the date of proclamation (should it occur). This would provide maximum flexibility for the newly formed Councils to determine what form of regional representation they wish to have, if they elect to have any at all. It also would provide some modest cost-savings for individual councils as they would not need to pay membership fees for the 2016/17 year and on-wards. However this option would stop all the regional work which is currently underway, eliminate the momentum that the organisation and the region has generated since inception, and leave the region unrepresented at a critical time when District Plans are being developed, the BRT project is being rolled out, the new regional Hospital is being commissioned, a number of regional procurement activities are

being implemented, regional waste activities are being coordinated and a new regional waste solution is being pursued, and there is a unique opportunity to work with the current state members who hold the most senior positions in State Government. This option is therefore **not recommended**.

***Merge SHOROC and NSROC immediately upon proclamation of the new council entities.***

A merging of NSROC and SHOROC has been discussed and considered at length over recent months and there are a number of compelling reasons why this should occur should the mergers proceed. Specifically the requirement for two Regional Organisations of Councils representing only 5 merged Council entities is questionable. The benefits of merging SHOROC and NSROC once and should the proposed mergers proceed are:

- A single voice for the Northern Sydney region;
- A stronger voice representing a larger number of residents;
- A common approach to a range of issues affecting both regions, in particular transport, planning, waste and environmental management.
- It reflects a number of existing regional service catchments including the newly created Greater Sydney Commission.
- Commonalities in terms of communities of interest that extend beyond the current borders.

Whilst there is merit in this approach, for reasons explained below it is not recommended it occur at this time. Therefore this option is **not recommended**.

***Maintain SHOROC with a view to a future merger with NSROC***

The final option is to continue to run SHOROC in its current form until 30 June 2017 irrespective of whether the mergers occur or not. Subsequent to the mergers (should they eventuate) and the proposed local government elections to be held in March 2017, the newly elected Councils could then determine the future of SHOROC, particularly with a view to a merger with NSROC. This would have the benefit of enabling continuity during the very disruptive merger process (should it occur) at a regional level, enable existing projects and activities to continue, keep the SHOROC brand alive and opportunities for collective action based on historical alliances in place, provide time for further work (including a draft constitution) to be developed for a combined SHOROC/NSROC entity to be pursued (should that be the ultimate wish of the members), and keep a politically neutral mechanism in place for dialogue with state and federal members should the need occur.

It should be noted that this option would require funding through the payment of the annual membership fees and an agreed program of work to be signed off at the Board Meeting in May. An adopted work program for 2016/17 would enable work to continue should the governance arrangements for SHOROC during the interim period between the proclamations and new local government elections prove problematic. If this option has the support of GMAC and the board staff contracts and office logistics will be managed on this basis. This option is **recommended**.

The GMAC met on 10 February 2016 and resolved to recommend the option to retain SHOROC until 30 June 2017 as stated above however it should be noted that **Warringah Council did not support this resolution**.

It should also be noted that this is also the approach being adopted by NSROC.

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**RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Endorsed the extension of SHOROC in its current form until 30 June 2017, with a possible merger with NSROC to be considered after this time;
- Endorsed the development of a work programme for consideration at the SHOROC Board meeting on 4 May 2016; and

- Endorsed the Executive Director to extend the contracts of existing staff where required to accommodate this time frame.

*Moved Henry Wong/seconded Kylie Ferguson*

*Carried unanimously*

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### 3.2 Managing on-street Boat Trailers in the SHOROC region

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**REGIONAL PRIORITY** Improve collaboration and knowledge sharing between councils.

**SHOROC ACTION** Joint Co-ordination.

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#### **SUMMARY**

New legislation was introduced by the NSW State Government which would enable Councils to impound Boat Trailers subject to specific requirements if they have been parked on a residential street without being moved for a period of 28 days or more. Whilst the legislation does not take effect until 1 October 2016, Councils need to nominate areas within their jurisdictions that they would like 'declared' to effect the legislation by 31 March 2016 in order that they can be published in the NSW Government Gazette. A specific intention of this approach is to facilitate a coordinated approach to enacting the legislation.

#### **REPORT**

The new legislation enables Councils to impound boat trailers if they are parked on a street for more than 28 days without being moved, irrespective of whether the trailer is legally parked and still registered. Formerly the trailers could only be ticketed or impounded if they were out of registration, were considered 'abandoned' or had exceeded stated timed parking periods. It should be noted that boat owners can comply with the legislation simply by moving their trailer within each 28 day period at least as far as a different block section on the same street or to a different street. Council must still provide notice of at least 15 days before impounding a trailer and the new powers do not apply to any other type of trailer (ie box trailers, advertising trailers, camping trailers and the like).

Following a meeting of the regulatory managers of the SHOROC councils a number of matters were raised by each of the councils relating to the impacts of the legislation, and the concern that where on-street parking of boat trailers had been an issue for individual councils, the declaration of specific areas within LGAs is likely to result in boat owners moving trailers between areas, or from a declared area to a non-declared areas, potentially in a new council jurisdiction. It is considered that as communication between boat owners is often quite comprehensive, it is likely that areas which are not declared or policed will be targeted for boat trailer parking by trailers displaced under this initiative, particularly as boat owners will often travel significant distances from their homes to access their boats.

On this basis, and to ensure a region wide approach, it is recommended that all four SHOROC councils resolve to declare their entire LGAs as subject to the legislation, which would still enable councils to be flexible about which areas they choose to enforce. The view of the regulatory managers is that the issue only pertains to a small number of streets and individual trailers although they can generate significant local concern. Prior to the nomination of the declared areas by the individual councils it is recommended reports go to each of the Councils seeking confirmation of the approach and outlining a process to inform the community, key stakeholders as well as confirming the regulatory approach that will be taken.

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#### **RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Endorsed the regional approach of nominating council-wide areas for gazettal by 31 March 2016;
- That SHOROC co-ordinate to inform relevant stakeholders and develop common enforcement measures; and
- That SHOROC continues to co-operate to manage on street boat trailer parking once the legislation takes effect.

*Moved Veronica Lee/seconded Cr Jean Hay*

*Carried unanimously*

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### 3.3 Review of the Local Government Act

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<b>REGIONAL PRIORITY</b>	Strengthen regional model to improve capacity and to respond to NSW Government local and government and planning reform agenda.
<b>SHOROC ACTION</b>	Advocacy.

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#### **SUMMARY**

In 2012, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Don Page MP, appointed a four member Taskforce to review the Local Government Act 1993 and the City of Sydney Act 1988. The Taskforce looked at ways to modernise the legislation, to ensure that it would meet the future needs of councils and communities.

The Taskforce prepared a discussion paper and conducted workshops throughout NSW to discuss and refine the ideas presented in the paper. Taskforce members also worked with the Independent Local Government Review Panel to ensure that the two review processes were suitably aligned. The proposed changes to the Local Government Act are now available for public submission.

#### **REPORT**

The Taskforce completed its work in late 2013 and its final report and recommendations were exhibited for public comment in early 2014. The NSW Government delivered its response to the Taskforce recommendations in September 2014. The Explanatory Paper briefly summarises each of the proposed phase 1 amendments and the numbering system and headings in the paper and in the questions in the survey/submission form correspond. The paper and survey are divided into the following sections:

Guiding principles for the Act and local government

- Structural framework of local government
- The governing body of councils
- Elections
- Council's workforce
- Ethical standards
- Councils' strategic framework
- Council performance

Consultation on phase 1 amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 has commenced. The proposed amendments are intended to:

- clarify roles and responsibilities of councillors, mayors, administrators and general managers;
- introduce new guiding principles for local government;
- improve governance of councils and professional development for councillors;
- expand on the framework for strategic business planning and reporting; o prioritise community engagement and financial accountability; and
- streamline council administrative processes, including in relation to delegations and community grants.

While it is considered that the fundamentals of the Local Government Act 1993 remain sound, both the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce recommended changes to modernise the legislation and to ensure it meets the future needs of councils and communities. Phase 1 of the reform program focuses mainly on changes to the governance and strategic business planning processes of councils. Phase 2 will focus on the way in which councils raise revenue and exercise their regulatory functions.

In the initial consultation stage, details of the phase 1 amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 will be available at the Fit for the Future website with an opportunity to provide online feedback on those

proposals. Consultation on phase 1 amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 will close on 15 March 2016.

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**RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Endorsed the preparation of a SHOROC submission to the review based on common issues and concerns of the four SHOROC member Councils.
- Agree for the Executive Director to distribute a copy of the draft submission to GMAC.

*Moved Mark Ferguson/seconded Kylie Ferguson*

*Carried unanimously*

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### 3.4 NSW Container Deposit Scheme Discussion Paper

**REGIONAL PRIORITY** Waste: Contribute to NSW Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy targets

**SHOROC ACTION** Implement *Too Good to Waste* strategy and projects

#### SUMMARY

A Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is to be introduced in NSW by 1 July 2017 to reduce drink container litter. The NSW Government has released a discussion paper with submissions due by 26 February that identifies design elements including the scheme's interaction with kerbside collections, and two options for the scheme:

*Option 1: Refund CDS* has the following design elements:

- Refund through reverse vending machines (not mandated), local collection depots; material resource facilities and local schools or charities (deposit suggested 10c)
- Single coordinating body, either industry, government or independently run (to be determined)
- Scope of containers suggested at 150 ml to 1L (although 150 ml to 3L being considered to align to SA and NT scope with exceptions for milk and wine (to be determined))
- Focus on containers consumed away from home
- Redemption of containers in kerbside (to be determined)

This option aligns to the four councils' long held advocacy positions as well as actions in SHOROC's *Shaping the Future* strategy and *Too Good to Waste* regional waste strategy. The EPA expects this option to significantly reduce drink container litter.

*Option 2: Thirst for Good* (\$15 million per annum alternative industry proposal)

- Each council given a single caged trailer to lend to community groups to collect empty containers for a \$300 reward per cage full.
- 100 litter collectors working in areas not currently serviced by councils or other landholders.
- 2,000 litter bins donated to councils (13 bins/council) with funding to maintain and empty
- 100 reverse vending machines in litter hotspots with non-financial incentives.
- Community education program

This option focuses on clean up and does not incentivise container litter behaviour change, is likely to be an administrative burden on councils and does not align to other Australian CDSs. It is unlikely to reduce the container litter stream compared to a refund CDS.

Based on feedback from the discussion paper, coupled with the CDS Advisory Committee's advice and a cost benefit analysis, the NSW Government will draft legislation (and supporting regulations) for a preferred CDS model, and work on industry engagement, infrastructure implementation, and establishing governance arrangements aimed at introducing the scheme by 1 July 2017.

GMAC at its February meeting agreed to provide a draft submission (**Tab C**) to the SHOROC Board for consideration giving in principle support for *Option 1: Refund CDS* noting the lack of specific detail on a preferred scheme and that support is predicated on cost neutrality for councils. Kimbriki may also provide additional input to this draft submission from a processing perspective.

#### RESOLUTION

The SHOROC Board:

- Gave in principle support for *Option 1: Refund CDS* predicated on cost neutrality for councils.
- Agree the draft SHOROC submission (**Tab C**) to be forwarded to the EPA noting that further input may be included from Kimbriki regarding processing.

*Moved Veronica Lee/seconded Mark Ferguson*

*Carried unanimously*



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### 3.5 SHOROC Kimbriki Sub-Committee

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**REGIONAL PRIORITY** Waste: Contribute to NSW Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy targets

**SHOROC ACTION** Provide secretariat for Kimbriki Sub-Committee.

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#### **SUMMARY**

An update on the Kimbriki Sub-Committee.

#### **REPORT**

The Kimbriki Sub-Committee meeting and annual election of chairperson scheduled for Thursday, 10 December was not held due to the absence of a quorum. The first item on the agenda for this meeting was a review and noting of the Sub-Committee's terms of reference at the request of GMAC who had noted with concern that the Sub-Committee continues to operate outside its terms of reference. With the December meeting not being held, no meeting dates have been set for 2016 and there is no specific current work programme underway with the Sub-Committee.

GMAC agreed at its meeting on 10 February 2016 that the Executive Director undertake a review of the Sub-Committee for consideration by the board.

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#### **RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Agree that SHOROC suspend the Kimbriki subcommittee pending the finalisation of the current merger process and a determination of the mechanisms that Kimbriki and councils use for community participation in the management of the waste stream.
- Endorse SHOROC write to the members of sub-committee thanking them for their contributions to-date to the committee.

*Moved Mark Ferguson/seconded Henry Wong*

*Carried unanimously*

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### 3.6 Administrative matters

<b>REGIONAL PRIORITY</b>	Efficient and effective operation. Continue high operational standards and reporting
<b>SHOROC ACTION</b>	Coordinate and provide secretariat for SHOROC Board and GMAC Prepare annual report, including annual independent audit of accounts, and continue appropriate quarterly financial reporting

#### SUMMARY

The Six Month Profit and Loss Statement has been prepared.

#### RESOLUTION

The SHOROC Board:

- Noted the Report.

*Moved Mark Ferguson/seconded Henry Wong*

*Carried unanimously*

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	
As of January 2016	
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$663,082.76
Fixed Assets	\$1,545.81
Receivables	\$16,028.04
Office equipment	\$2,171.30
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$682,827.91</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Trade Creditors	\$3,067.50
MasterCard	\$144.15
Unearned Income project provis	\$439,480.12
GST Liabilities	\$260.23
Payroll Liabilities	\$18,021.83
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$460,973.83</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$221,854.08</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Members' Contributions	\$12.00
Retained Earnings	\$75,365.11
Current Year Earnings	\$146,476.97
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$221,854.08</b>
<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>	
July 2015 to December 2015	
<b>Income</b>	
Trading Income	\$466,358.14
Project Income	\$172,876.01
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$639,234.15</b>
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$639,234.15</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
General & Administrative Exp	\$310,064.40
Projects Expenses	\$14,295.81
Business Reform & Shared Svcs	\$3,941.79
Regional Waste Management	\$140,999.09
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$469,301.09</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$169,933.06</b>

## Item 4 Items largely for information

### 4.1 Transport infrastructure and planning

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<b>REGIONAL PRIORITY</b>	Modal shift to faster and more reliable public transport together with less congested roads. Funding allocated and construction commenced on major agreed priority public transport and road upgrades.
<b>SHOROC ACTION</b>	Advocate for priority public transport and road infrastructure and work with the NSW Government and councils to plan and progress timely implementation Convene Regional Transport Planning & Management Group Promote public and active transport to encourage modal shift

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#### **SUMMARY**

Update on implementation of major transport upgrades across the region, the intergovernmental partnership framework now in operation, and key projects.

#### **REPORT**

##### **Background**

The NSW Government's Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan (NBTAP) is a five-year \$644 million program of works to implement the package of transport infrastructure upgrades developed collectively by the councils through SHOROC as the *Shaping Our Future* strategy in 2011.

The current priorities for transport planning and advocacy as endorsed by the Board are:

- Effective and efficient implementation of all elements of the Northern Beaches Transport Action Plan within the committed timeframes and consistent with the objectives and priorities of councils.
- Fast tracked implementation of Bus Rapid Transit for the critical Dee Why-Chatswood link.
- Finalise planning, identify a suitable funding mechanism and begin delivery of the tunnel linking Northern Beaches with the Warringah Freeway.
- Strongly encourage a modal shift to public and active transport.

#### **Intergovernmental partnership framework for implementation established and operational**

A strong intergovernmental partnership framework for implementation of the NBTAP was established by SHOROC and is now in operation. It includes:

- Intergovernmental Coordination Committee of the Minister, MPs, Mayors and SHOROC
- Intergovernmental Working Group of senior staff from TfNSW, RMS government agencies and councils, chaired by SHOROC's ED (meets every month to two months)
- SHOROC ED's appointment as a member of the internal TfNSW NBBRT Project Control Group (meets monthly)
- Specific and more detailed work on individual projects with responsible councils

Whilst there have been a number of meetings with individual Council's particularly in regard to the proposed park and ride facilities, the Project Control Group has now ceased to meet as the project is awaiting consideration of the Business Case by Treasury and if approved, will move into its implementation stage.

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**Update on implementation****Northern Beaches BRT – or ‘B-line’**

The NSW Government announced further details on the Northern Beaches BRT on 9 November 2015. The full service is planned to be operational by late 2017.

Specific Issues include intersection specific works, lane dedications, signal optimisation, active transport provision and loss of on-street parking.

Further meetings of the Intergovernmental working group and with the individual Councils will address these matters iteratively over time, and once funding from the business case has been allocated.

**Northern Beaches Hospital precinct road and intersection upgrades**

Stage 1 road works have commenced.

The Stage 2 (underpass) EIS submissions report are being considered by Transport for NSW. The submissions report includes proposed changes in response to SHOROC, Warringah and other comments including further bus-priority works which could enable a future BRT on this route.

**Northern Beaches Link (tunnel)**

In announcing the ‘B-line’, The Hon. Mike Baird MP stated that the feasibility studies and strategic business case for the proposed Northern Beaches Link would be completed early in 2016. No further information is available at this stage.

**IPART fare review**

The final determination on maximum fares is anticipated to be delivered to the NSW Government in March 2016.

**East-West Links**

A meeting is being organised with TfNSW and the Macquarie Park TMA to explore options to pursue this public transport initiative.

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**RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Noted the update.

*Moved Veronica Lee/seconded Kylie Ferguson*

*Carried unanimously*

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## 4.2 Proposed Changes to Complying Development

**REGIONAL PRIORITY** Housing growth and choice: Facilitate appropriate growth in housing including a range of housing choice.

**SHOROC ACTION** Advocacy.

### SUMMARY

The NSW Government has released a Discussion Paper seeking feedback on a proposal to expand the range of low-rise residential development that can be undertaken as complying development across NSW. The current State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development) 2007 sets the framework to allow:

- Exempt development (minor development that does not require planning or building approval); and
- Complying development (specified development that can be approved by an accredited certifier if it meets all of the development standards and other requirements in the State Policy); and
- For one and two-storey homes, the State Policy currently enables routine developments that comply with requirements to be assessed as 'complying development' by private certifiers enabling a fast track approval process.

Feedback is currently being sought from Councils by way of submission by 15 February 2016. Currently the SHOROC councils are preparing individual submissions

### REPORT

#### Government Proposal

The State Government proposal is to allow for medium density housing under the complying development provisions which would result in dual occupancies, manor homes, town houses and terraces as complying development. The proposal is to allow the above types of medium density development to be permitted in R1, R2 and R3 zones as complying development. This change has the potential to result in significant impacts on the environment and local communities as follows:

- Significant changes to the character of areas without appropriate community consultation;
- Residential development without consideration of the merits of the development based on the character surrounding the area, community concerns and considerations, the appropriate infrastructure provision and traffic and parking concerns; and
- The undermining of development forms and types which are currently permitted in residential zones with development standards that have been determined by based on community consultation and which reflect the character and nature of the zone and its locational issues.

The discussion paper proposes that up to 10 terraces could be built as complying development as well as manor houses which are essentially two-story residential flat buildings comprised of two first floor and two second floor apartments. Furthermore the minimum lot sizes for Dual Occupancies would result in individual lots of 200 square metres (well below most council requirements) and no specific density or size requirements would exist for terrace style development. Below ground parking is also proposed. Each of these development types is likely to generate significant community concern.

### RESOLUTION

The SHOROC Board:

- Endorsed the preparation of a SHOROC submission expressing concern regarding the above matters;
- Agree SHOROC provide a copy of the SHOROC submission to the Planning Minister, Mr Rob Stokes.

*Moved Veronica Lee/seconded Kylie Ferguson*

*Carried unanimously*

### 4.3 Greater Sydney Commission

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<b>REGIONAL PRIORITY</b>	Housing growth & choice: Facilitate appropriate growth in housing including a range of housing choice
<b>SHOROC ACTION</b>	Subregional planning, including coordinating North Subregion Local Government Advisory Committee and Working Group to develop Northern Sydney Subregional Plan with the NSW Government.

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#### **SUMMARY**

Update on the Greater Sydney Commission and district planning.

#### **REPORT**

##### **Greater Sydney Commission**

The new Great Sydney Commission and the Assistant Commissioners have now commenced work in their positions and are actively recruiting staff to assist them in their functions. Whilst two District Commissioners have yet to be announced, the position of Commissioner for Northern Sydney, Debra Dearing who has experience in both the private sector and government (formerly as a National Manager at Stocklands and currently the Executive Director of Urban Renewal at SHFA) has been finalised.

In the next two weeks the following is anticipated:

- The Greater Sydney Commission Website will be launched;
- Invitations for Council planning staff secondments to the Commission will be extended;
- Further clarification of the priorities, scope and objectives of the Commission will be disseminated;
- A meeting of GM's and senior planning staff will be organised with the Commissioners.

The GSC now has 12 months to finalise the draft District Plans, and it is anticipated that they will be workshopped by the GSC to ensure that there is further revision. This is likely to include being released for public comment and significant restructuring.

The GSC is yet to take on the role of approving major development from the JRPPs and PAC and it is understood that this transition will occur later in the year.

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#### **RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Noted the update on the Greater Sydney Commission and district planning.
- Agree to extending an invitation to the GSC Commissioner and District representative to meet with the SHOROC Board; and
- Endorsed the Executive Director work with the GSC and SHOROC Councils to ensure that the District Plans represent the SHOROC regions infrastructure needs and priorities as articulated in 'Shaping our Sustainable Future'.

*Moved Mark Ferguson/seconded Henry Wong*

*Carried unanimously*

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## 4.4 IPART Review of the Regulatory Burden on Local Government

**REGIONAL PRIORITY** Improve organisational efficiency, increase grant funding, services delivered and customers to reduce cost to member councils.

**SHOROC ACTION** Advocacy.

### SUMMARY

The Premier has asked IPART to conduct a review to identify burdens placed on Local Government in the form of planning, reporting and compliance obligations by the NSW Government, and to make recommendations for how identified unnecessary or excessive burdens can be reduced. The aim of the review is to improve the efficiency of local government in NSW and enhance the ability of councils to focus on delivering services to their communities. Submissions are sought by interested parties by 19 February.

### REPORT

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) is seeking feedback on 49 recommendations to reduce the regulatory burdens that the NSW Government imposes on local government. IPART Chairman Dr Peter Boxall said the draft recommendations address inefficient, unnecessary and excessive burdens placed on councils by the NSW Government in relation to reporting, planning or compliance.

While the recommendations cover a range of council functions, those in the areas of planning and water will bring the greatest improvements in council efficiency. Planning laws are claimed to impose a significant regulatory burden. The draft recommendations aim to reduce cost and delays by making better use of technology to automate data gathering, payments and the issuing of certificates.

IPART is seeking feedback on the draft recommendations, which include:

- Improving the planning system by expanding the use of the ePlanning Portal and developing a suite of standardised development consent conditions to reduce costs and delays.
- Reforming regulation of the 100-plus council owned and operated Local Water Utilities that provide water supply and sewerage services to over 1.8 million people
- Addressing systemic issues to reduce cost shifting to councils, including requiring NSW Government agencies to consider the costs and benefits of any regulation on local government before making any change.
- Streamlining reporting requirements across local government administrative and planning functions.

IPART has also recommended reforms to reduce the burdens associated with building and construction, managing public lands and infrastructure, animal control and alcohol-free areas.

Whilst submissions closed on the 19 February an extension has been granted to SHOROC until 26 February 2016. IPART's Final Report will be provided to the NSW Government in April 2016. The Draft Report, along with a full list of the draft recommendations and information on the public hearing, is available at IPART's website. The review is part of the NSW Government's broader local government reform program that commenced in 2011 and is the result of a recommendation of the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

### RESOLUTION

The SHOROC Board:

- Endorsed the finalisation of a SHOROC submission to the review based on common issues and concerns of the four SHOROC member Councils.

*Moved Veronica Lee/seconded Cr Jean Hay*

*Carried unanimously*

## 4.5 Brief updates

Brief updates on advocacy, projects and other Board resolutions listed below for information.

Issue	Corporate project/ resolution	Status/update
Community Managers group report for Board	President request July 2015	The SHOROC President has requested a report on collaboration on community issues. This brief report will be prepared in consultation with the Community Managers Group and circulated to GMAC prior to finalisation and is scheduled for discussion at the next SHOROC CS Managers meeting on 25 February.
Visitor economy opportunities paper	Board Resolution 25 November 2015	A meeting is being organised for early March to progress the request from the Board to develop an implementation plan with a particular focus on quick wins.
Bundling of Aerial Cables	Item 3.5	Note that the MOU between Energex and Brisbane City Council is still being pursued.

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### **RESOLUTION**

The SHOROC Board:

- Noted the brief updates on advocacy, projects and other Board resolutions listed for information.
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**Item 5 Additional matters raised by councils**

*Nil*

**Item 6 General business**

**Item 7 Confirm time and date of next meeting**

Next ordinary meeting: 4 May 2016 2015, 3-5pm at the SHOROC Offices.

# ATTACHMENTS

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**Tab A** Minutes of 25 November 2015 Board meeting

**Tab B** Actions arising from 25 November 2015 Board meeting

**Tab C** SHOROC Submission on NSW Container Deposit Scheme Discussion Paper