

Late Report Ordinary Meeting Of Council



Wollondilly

Shire Council

Late Report – Monday 21 May 2018

EC7 Transitioning from MACROC

Late Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 21 May 2018

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LATE REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (MACROC) has been in place for many years and has served our Communities well.
- Over the past few years there have been a number of discussions in relation to revised options for regional collaboration at this level.
- Given the changing circumstances in the broader region, particularly the establishment of a Western District under the Greater Sydney Commission's planning framework and the announcement of the Western Sydney City Deal, it is an opportune time to accelerate the development and implementation of a revised arrangement for regional local government collaboration.
- It is recommended that Council commence the process to withdraw from MACROC with a view to working towards a revised regional collaboration model.

REPORT

The Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (MACROC) was formed in 1986 and comprises representation from Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils. It is supported by two professional dedicated staff.

The current Constitution of MACROC was adopted in 1998 and lists the following Objects of the Organisation:

- i. To consider the needs of the Local Governments area and of the people of the Macarthur Region and of making known those needs to the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments.
- ii. To submit to such Governments requests for financial assistance, policy changes and additional resources for the region or member Councils.
- iii. To strengthen the role of Local Government in regional affairs particularly where the region may be affected by Australian or New South Wales Governments policy.
- iv. That Councils of the region work together and cooperate on problems and projects of joint interest.
- v. To advance the interests of the region.

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MACROC has a clear history of effective research, collaboration and advocacy over many years. To date, the effectiveness of MACROC has positioned the three participating Councils very well to represent our Communities while participating in broader Western Sydney District discussions and negotiations.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the past couple of years have seen an accelerated rate of change in South Western and Western Sydney, most notably:

- The announcement of Sydney's second airport at Badgery's Creek and the associated opportunities and challenges
- Rapid growth with unprecedented development
- The merging of the Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC's) Western and South Western Districts and the development of a District Plan covering the following eight local government areas:
 - Blue Mountains
 - Camden
 - Campbelltown
 - Fairfield
 - Hawkesbury
 - Liverpool
 - Penrith
 - Wollondilly.
- The establishment of the Western Sydney City Deal covering the above eight local government areas.

Recognising these changing circumstances, a Mayoral Minute was presented at the 4 December 2017 Council meeting advising of the appropriateness of taking this opportunity to consider MACROC's structure and membership.

Subsequently, at its meeting of 22 February, MACROC agreed that a working group comprising the Mayors and General Managers be convened to consider the structure and membership of MACROC. Due to a range of priorities, it has not yet been possible to convene the Working Group, however, given preliminary discussions it is considered appropriate to submit this report.

Significantly, local government's involvement in the development of the Western Sydney City Deal has seen the eight participating Councils working closely and collaboratively on a transformative and historic change to intergovernmental collaboration. As this process has developed it has become increasingly apparent that a more formal on-going collaborative relationship between the eight Councils has the potential to enhance many outcomes throughout the whole Region.

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While there are of course a number of options for formally structuring such an arrangement (one of which being a Regional Organisation of Councils), it is not the purpose of this report to prematurely advocate a particular new structure. The development of such an arrangement would need to involve all potential participants. It is however clear that a new collaboration structure with resourcing needs shared amongst all participants will position us well to respond to the changing opportunities and challenges that our Region is experiencing (this report does not envisage or propose joining another existing ROC).

It is important that this be progressed in a timely manner and the recommendations below are put forward with a view to commencing this process in earnest.

CONSULTATION

Preliminary discussions have taken place between the MACROC President and the three General Managers of the MACROC Councils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council's current annual MACROC membership fee is in the order of \$80,000.

However, this report does not anticipate future savings resulting from withdrawing from MACROC given that once a revised collaborative structure is put in place it will clearly require resourcing commitments from all members. Indeed, the eight City Deal Councils are already contributing to resourcing requirements associated with the City Deal process.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council commence the process to withdraw from MACROC with a view to working towards a regional collaborative model having regard to the changing circumstances in the broader region.
2. That Council write to MACROC acknowledging the Organisation's excellent contribution over many years, and advising of this decision.
3. That Council write to the other seven Western City Councils advising of this decision and seeking to expedite discussions in relation to the establishment of a new collaborative arrangement.