

12 August 2010

Councillor elected to National Seachange Taskforce

Shoalhaven City Councillor Bohdan Brumerskyj has been elected to the National Sea Change Taskforce.

Clr Brumerskyj will represent NSW local governments on the taskforce for 2010/2011.

"All NSW coastal councils are experiencing difficulties in managing the growth and scale of change that is occurring as Australian population ages and we change our lifestyles," Clr Brumerskyj said. The Taskforce was established to work with other levels of government to manage the growth in populations and also the growth in tourism that is occurring in magnificent areas such as the Shoalhaven.

"Tourism in our city brings major revenue to the city, some \$615 million a year, but it also presents our council with major challenges for our roads, water and sewerage infrastructure to name a few. The Taskforce will help coastal councils work towards managing this growth and the pressures on our infrastructure on the character and lifestyle that we enjoy in our city.

"With more than 85 per cent of all Australians living on our coast there are great pressures on the lifestyles and values that we have enjoyed. I am hoping that during my membership on the National Executive we are able to address the issues of sustainability, growth and how we manage those in an environmentally sensitive manner."

The National Sea Change Taskforce was established in 2004 as a national body to represent the interests of coastal councils and communities experiencing the effects of rapid population and tourism growth. The Taskforce now has more than 68 member councils from around Australia. Collectively, these councils represent more than four million residents.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said it is a great honour to have a Shoalhaven Councillor represented on the National Executive.

"Shoalhaven is proud to have one of our younger Councillors on a National Taskforce looking at one of the big challenges that we see in the future," Clr Green said. "Council has recognised that the sea change phenomenon will pose significant challenges for this council and future councils. We have noted this in our new Community Strategic Plan.

"We are pleased the Clr Brumerskyj has taken the challenge and I am sure he will prove to be a valuable member of the National Taskforce."

The role of the National Sea Change Taskforce is to provide national leadership in addressing the impact of the 'sea change' phenomenon and to provide support and guidance to coastal councils attempting to manage the impact of rapid growth.

Photo caption: Councillor Bohdan Brumerskyj.

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