

MidCoast Council Administrator's Report

I table my administrator's report for the period of my administration of MidCoast Council.

The report is only a synopsis of the period. To capture all the work and change which has occurred in these past 17 months, not so much by me, but by the dedicated council officers, would involve volumes of work.

Indeed, as staff know, the Administrator and General Manager have, over the 17 month period, been required to report to the State Government, initially every two weeks, then monthly of the achievements, benefits, problems and outcomes which have occurred in those intervening periods. When read as a compiled document the staff and citizens of MidCoast Council can see the significant achievements that have occurred to bring together the former councils into a viable and competent single entity.

This simply could not have been achieved without the dedication and determination of all staff.

My dealings with staff have been predominately with senior officers.

I have been in public life now for nearly 32 years and will say it has been a privilege and an honour to serve with the General Manager Glenn Handford and the Directors, Lisa Schiff, Ron Hartley, Steve Embry, Paul De Szell and Brendon Guiney. The professionalism, dedication of service to the community and the determination to ensure the merger was a success while maintaining business as usual by this team has been of the highest standard. It is also clear that this work has also brought the wider community along the merger journey.

Obviously, when such people as administrators are appointed there is a bit of a stand-off to assess the situation. Having said that, after that initial period of getting to know each other, I believe a real working relationship developed and I thank the General Manager and the Directors for the friendly way we transitioned over the initial period.

To all the other staff of the council, I say a big thank you. I am acutely aware of the separation of powers between the administrator and the council officers (I actually had something to do with that in a former life).

Inevitably, I did have contact with non-senior staff for a number of reasons. Again, it was so clear that they were also operating in a highly professional manner, again to serve their community to the highest standard. But also I thank those staff for the friendship during this period. The amount of times a friendly smile occurred were numerous and assuring to me.

I don't want to single out staff with whom I have worked but I do want to say a personal thank you to the two personal assistants who worked with me during my administration, Ann Gambrell and Lineve Dwyer who were of great assistance in my day to day activities and importantly, with sage advice when needed.

The integration of the leadership of the senior team channelled by the General Manager, and the work and dedication of the staff has lead to the fact that the MidCoast Council merger is seen by the State Government, at Department of Premier and Cabinet and Office of Local Government as the success story of the merger process.



To all of you, to every staff member of the merged council, I say thank you for making my life easier in my formal work and thank you for work and dedication for our community, it is a job well done.

I wish everyone all the best as the new dawn of an elected council becomes a reality.

