

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Overloaded Trucks.

The Mid North Weight of Loads Group works in co-operation with the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority to protect and prolong the life of our roads and bridges by reducing the incidence of overloaded vehicles.

The Group comprises of the following Councils that have representation on the member Committee and contribute to the ongoing operation of the MNWLG -:

Armidale / Dumaresq, Bellingen Shire, Coffs Harbour City, Dungog Shire, Gloucester Shire, Great Lakes, Greater Taree City, Guyra Shire, Kempsey Shire, Liverpool Plains Shire, Port Macquarie / Hastings, Tamworth Regional, Upper Hunter Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Shire.

Although the Group issues breaches for overloading, the major function is to provide education which will assist truck operators in making sure their loads are legal and are not causing further damage to roads. As part of the Group's educational program, inspectors offer truck weighing on request and give advise on proper loading.

Why do we need a Group such as the Mid North Weight of Loads Group.? There is a growing need to prevent overloaded vehicles from damaging and further reducing the maintenance cycle of our roads and bridges. This damage not only contributes to motor vehicle accidents but it also imposes a huge financial burden on communities in funding repairs and road reconstruction. Overloading also increases maintenance costs for truck operators.

How Can the Mid North Weight of Loads Group achieve this? The first and foremost solution is education. If truck operators are unsure of how to efficiently distribute their loads or are not sure of the loading capacity of their vehicle in accordance with Vehicle mass Limits and the Compliance and Enforcement Legislation, they are invited to contact any Member Council or the Group who will arrange a meeting with an inspector who will provide the appropriate advice.

The second and less favourable course of action to prevent damage will be to breach offenders. An overload offence can attract large fines; therefore truck operators are encouraged to make sure their load configuration and weight is legal.

Further information may be obtained from Gloucester Council on (02) 6538 5250.

Gresford Show Society 75th Anniversary.

Congratulations to the Gresford Show Society on a magnificent spectacle to celebrate your 75th Anniversary celebrations. The Grand Parade on Saturday was wonderful, and obviously all the Livestock events and Pavilion exhibits were well supported.

To the Show Executive, Committee members, the vast Volunteer representation and all the Sponsors well done. To all the competitors, congratulations, without your contribution, the Show certainly would not be the success it is.

21 March 2007