

Energy is the word at workshop

Priority areas identified for action in climate change fight

By **SUE SHORT**

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ENERGY was the focus of the day at the Northern Rivers Climate Change Collaboration (NR3C) workshop on Thursday.

Uta Dietrich, director of North Coast Health Promotion, said all who attended showed a strong commitment to working together.

"As a result, clear direction and actions emerged that can now be tackled with energy," she said.

Held at Southern Cross University, more than 16

peak regional organisations are involved in the NR3C, including *The Northern Star*, offering leadership for the region to prepare and adapt for climate change.

North Coast Health Promotion co-ordinator Annie Kia said while all the organisations present were very different, they were able to settle on four priority areas for action.

"These are resource efficiency, food, transport and enabling mechanisms. Action plans will be developed for each," she said. "Resource efficiency is obviously at the heart of

efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We need to address food, both to reduce our emissions and in order to adapt to the impacts of global warming on food supply systems worldwide.

"We also need to increase transport options that are not carbon-intensive.

"Finally, we need to find ways to enable self-organised activity across the region in communities and industry sectors."

Ms Kia said many of the strategies would also increase the health of the

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population.

"For example, by encouraging cycling and walking and other forms of active transport. So, there are multiple benefits from working together to create a sustainable way to work and live in the Northern Rivers," she said.

"We are conscious there are already a lot of creative efforts in the region in response to climate change. We hope we can accelerate this innovation. It is wonderful to experience the strong commitment of people from such different organisations."

The NR3C also sees networking and collaboration with other local organisations and collecting and sharing local data as important; a website will be created to this end under the leadership of TAFE's Alicia Bates.



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS: Katrina Luckie (Northern Rivers Regional Development Board); Elizabeth McGregor (North Coast TAFE); Annie Kia (North Coast Health promotion); Sue Short (*The Northern Star* editor); Uta Dietrich (director, North Coast Area Health Service Promotion); Sasha Hunt (Youth and Environment Society); and Ken McLeod (Wollumbin Institute). Picture: CATHY ADAMS

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Ian Bennett (General Manager - Joss Group)

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For more information on how to enter visit www.safeworkawards.com.au or phone **13 10 50** for an entry form.

BALLINA Shire Council has decided to join the Bottled Water Alliance. The campaign encourages the use of tap water and filtered water for drinking. Mayor Phillip Silver said the council, where possible, would provide free tap or filtered water at its facilities, functions and events. "There are environmental, social and economic considerations when using bottled water," he said. "Our tap water is clean and reliable, has a lower carbon footprint than bottled water and is less resource intensive in its production." The council also voted to install

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL BRIEFS

new drinking fountains throughout the shire.

SOME councillors are concerned the council is stepping away from its core functions. In a discussion about CCTV and building 'community partnerships' to tackle crime, Cr Sue Meehan said the council 'doesn't need to take on the role of the police'. Cr Alan Brown said that if the council went ahead with CCTV, it would be

'doing the police's work'. "We should not be propping them up," he said. "Our responsibilities are for our own shire." But Cr Peter Moore said that view was 'missing the point' of building safer communities. "It's much more than just expecting police to walk down the street," he said.

THE implementation of 15-minute parking zones in Lennox Head's

CBD has been deferred. The council voted to wait until an assessment of the two-hour timed parking is done. Speaking at the council meeting, Chamber of Commerce chairwoman Louise Owen said there had been an 'overwhelming rejection' of timed parking by Lennox Head residents and business owners. "Fifteen-minute parking is of no use to anyone. It has been a disaster and it has few, if any, benefits," she said. Ms Owen accused the council of implementing timed parking to put the upgrade of Park Lane 'on the backburner'.

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