

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

8th March 2005

DSS2	RANKING FOR WATER/SEWERAGE GRANTS
FILE: W1	AMB

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the final rankings given to projects subject to the new 'ranking' system under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Programme.



In November 2004 the initial results of the grant funding ranking for projects under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Programme were reported to Council. Council resolved, in part,

That Council provide representatives to attend the delegation by Mid North Group of Council's with Minister Sartor on 17th November 2004.

Council was represented by the Mayor, Council Hayes and the Director Engineering at the meeting on 17 November 2004 and Minister Sartor advised that the review of priority ranking had recently been completed. Outcomes were expected within 2 weeks!

The results of the ranking review has recently been forwarded and are attached at [\[Appendix A\]](#) and separate advice from the Minister on the timeframe that grant funding may be available at [\[Appendix B\]](#).

The submission achieved a move in the ranking of Stuarts Point/Grassy Head Sewerage has moved from a ranking of 7 to a ranking of 5. Whilst still a disappointing result, there has been some acknowledgement of the need to sewer the area.

The access to grant funding for Willawarrin is still not well defined and appears to be available between 2005 and 2008 provided all design, specifications, tenders and environmental requirements have been completed. Confirmation of this understanding is being sought. From this information, it can be protracted that grant funding for Stuarts Point / Grassy Head sewerage would be not available until at least 2008 and Bellbrook sewerage would not receive funding until approximately 2010.

- ***Environmental Implications***

Existing environmental problems, stemming chiefly from the poor function of septic tank systems, will not be addressed by sewerage schemes in the short term if grant funding is to be utilised.

In the short term these environmental problems will need to be addressed through the Septic-Safe Programme

- ***Social Implications***

The pressure on individual property owners to address the environmental issues is building and is best met by the introduction of a sewerage scheme.

- ***Economic Implications***

The sewerage Fund budget would need to incorporate this latest information.

It would be possible to bring forward the construction of any or all these projects. However, it would most likely be without the assistance of grant funding.

If any of these sewerage projects were to be constructed without the benefit of grant funding, Macleay Water would need to carefully assess the impact upon sewerage rates for not only these projects but also the other capital works required in the ensuing years. Macleay Water is currently completing such an analysis as part of the Economic and Rate Impact Phase of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCMS).

- ***Policy or Statutory Implications***

There are no policy or statutory implications.

- ***Directors Review***

Council will need to carefully consider the implications of waiting for Grant Funding or of funding the works fully and the impact on future budgets.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES