



## **DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT**

July 12 2005

<b>DSDS11</b>	<b>OUTPUTS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>
	<b>2004/05</b>
	<b>FILE:S10-2 RBP</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on the performance of the Sustainable Development Services Department for the 2004/05 financial year.

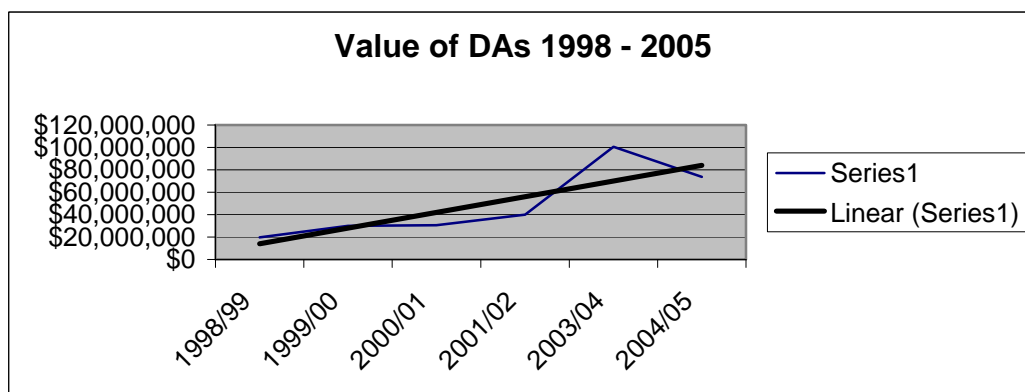
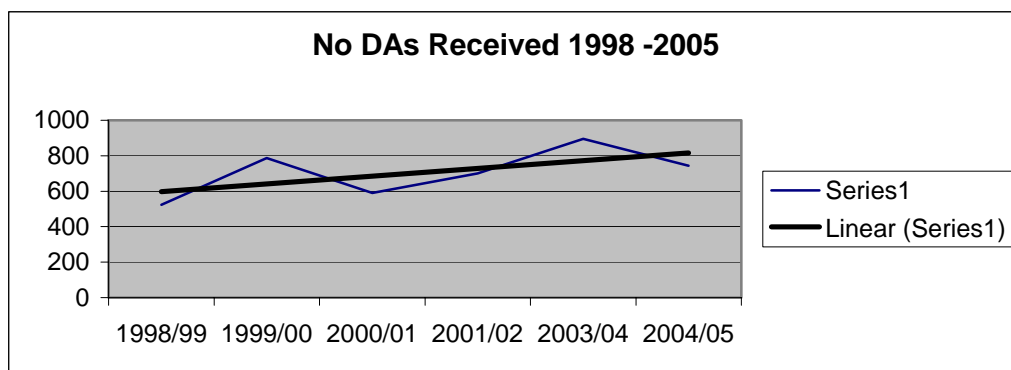
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### **Overview**

In another year characterised by vacancies in several key positions, the output of the Sustainable Development Services Department remained high. Of the seventy four (74) outputs identified for the Director and Managers, only seven (7) were not met for the year. Of these:

- Four (4) outputs were delayed due to the inputs and confirmation of grant funding being required from government agencies which were beyond Councils control;
- Three (3) outputs were directly related to staff vacancies.

Development activity during 2004/05 slowed from the record levels of 03/04, however, development continued a strong upward trend.



A closer analysis of the results also reveals that reforms to Council's approval processes have resulted in significant improvements:

<b>DAs Approved</b>	<b>2002/03</b>	<b>2003/04</b>	<b>2004/05</b>
< 7 days	20%	16%	26%
< 14 days	32%	31%	47%
< 21 days	47%	47%	57%
< 30 days	64%	64%	74%
< 40 days	80%	78%	82%

- One merit appeal to the Land and Environment Court was lodged in respect to Development Applications determined by Council which was upheld.

### Planning Services

DCP 22 Review – Crescent Head – The review was required to be completed by 30 March 2005, however, due to there being no Planning Manager until February 2005, the review was delayed. It is expected that the Committees recommendations and other general

amendments will be reported to Council in August 2005 for public exhibition. Council's adoption of the revised DCP is not expected until at least October 2005.

Additional projects being undertaken which were not included in the Outputs include: -

- Saltwater Developments, South West Rocks
- Ex Oil Terminal site, South West Rocks
- Beranghi Road Community Title Subdivision, Crescent Head
- Millards, Gladstone
- Mitre 10 – Commercial Smith Street
- Thurgoods – Industrial land, South Kempsey
- Frederickton expansion
- Point Plomer Road LEP
- Open Space Strategy for SWR
- Review of Kempsey Town Centre Master Plan
- Review of Tree Preservation Order

Review of Subdivision Approval Procedures was initially delayed by the need to obtain legal advice. The advice suggested changes were necessary which have not been completed due to staff vacancies.

## **Health and Building Services**

Onsite Sewerage Management Strategy requires inspection of existing onsite treatment systems with a target of an average of 60 inspections being carried out each month. This target was not met due to the resignation of the Onsite Sewerage Management Strategy Officer.

## **Environmental Projects Services**

The Department's Environmental Projects Section co-ordinated the preparation of seven (7) studies/management plans relating to approving the health of the Shire's rivers and creeks. Of these programs, the targets set were not met for four (4) projects: -

The Saltwater Creek Estuary Management Plan and Flood Study were delayed as they require review in conjunction with the Saltwater and ex Oil Terminal LEPs. This review is the responsibility of the strategic planner's position, which was vacated in early May 2005.

The Macleay River Process Study and Korogora Creek Management Plans were delayed by DIPNR in initially approving the brief and in

reinstating funding. Stage 1 of the Macleay River Process Study – Data Compilation is expected to be completed in July 2005.

**Economic Development Services**

In addition to the designated Outputs that were all met, the Economic Development Section is involved with an increasing number of unscheduled projects, including: -

- Saleyards Advertising
- Riverside Festival
- Council's industrial land – West Street South Kempsey
- Shire wireless network – broadband availability
- Parliamentary Inquiry to Infrastructure
- Airport EOI Review
- Commonwealth Games Relay – working with business community
- Town Master Plan
- Heritage Study
- Women in business course
- Indigenous creative industry development
- Historical trail brochure – Rotary

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**K J Ward**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**