



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

12th July 2005

DSS9 HEALTH CARE SERVICES PLAN
FILE: * KJF

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the meeting with respect to the Kempsey Master Plan.



At Council's meeting of 12 April 2005, Council resolved, in part, :-

"That Mr Chris Crawford be invited to meet with Council to discuss Council's submission in respect to the North coast Area Health Services Plan 2005 / 2008."

A meeting was held on Thursday 23 June 2005 with Vahid Saberi, Executive Director, Population Health Planning & Performance, and Wayne Jones, Manager Planning & Performance, from the North Coast Area Health Service. Also present were Laurie Clay from Durri Medical, Dr. Colin Farquharson and Councillors John Bowell and Betty Green. Mayor Hayes was an apology.

The issues raised and discussed were:

1. The plan is not just a hospital plan but a Health Service Plan for the District, encompassing the Hospital itself and Community Services activities both in Kempsey and at South West Rocks.
2. A Master Plan Committee will be established, hopefully in September, with a view to submitting a Master Plan by the end of 2005. The Committee will include 2 Councillors and representatives from staff, Doctors, Aboriginal Health etc. There may be also some specific reference groups.
3. The role of the Master Plan Committee is to oversee the development of the Master Plan.
4. Funding to progress the Feasibility component of planning has been received from the NSW Department of Health. Funding for the remaining steps of the works is not yet available and

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will be provided in stages to address the staged approach for a project like this i.e.:-

- Feasibility Study
- Project Definition
- Concept Design
- Construction

Issues with Public/Private partnerships for design and construction will be considered.

5. Issues identified to be addressed included:
 - The age of the hospital
 - Mental health
 - Aboriginal health
6. Issues with the current hospital include:
 - The age of the hospital – “not fit for care”
 - The Emergency Department
 - Mental Health facilities
7. The Correctional Facility does have impacts on various Hospital departments.
 - Emergency Department
 - Pathological services
 - Infection control
 - Mental health
 - Radiography
8. Short term issues would be addressed as best as possible with all services provided by the Area Health Service.

The Area Health Service staff clearly indicated that they would be happy to work with council in the development of the Kempsey Master Plan and agreed to provide whatever information they could.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental Implications***

There are no environmental implications from the following recommendations.

- ***Social Implications***

The social implications are that the community will have a part in the development of the Master Plan and its ultimate implementation

- ***Economic (Financial) Implications***

There are no economic implications in this report for Council, as all costs are borne by the State Government.

- *Policy or Statutory Implications*

There are no policy or statutory implications from this report.

- *Director's Review*

Council's involvement in this Master Plan process has been recognised and accepted, providing Council the opportunity to recognise Community expectations in respect to the delivery of Health Services.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council offer its support to Mr Chris Crawford, Chief Executive Officer North Coast Area Health Service in the preparation of the MasterPlan for Health Services at Kempsey District Hospital and the community of Kempsey Shire.
2. That Councillors J. Bowell and B. Green be nominated as Council's representatives on the MasterPlan Committee.

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES