



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICE'S REPORT

9th August 2005

DSS10 SOCIAL CAPITAL
FILE: * CJL

SUMMARY:

Reporting on measuring Social Capital.



At its meeting of 11 February 2004 Council resolved "To accurately examine and enhance social capital in our community Council investigate the cost and appropriate strategies that would be involved in an Audit of Social Capital in Kempsey Shire, to research the true feelings amongst community members about their community."

The following information provides an update on the progress of the ABS's attempts to develop a method of measuring social capital. Ideally this model would be used by KSC once developed and information may be able to be used directly from ABS sources.

The ABS advises that "Social Capital and Voluntary Work topics will be included in the next General Social Survey (GSS), to be conducted April to June 2006. Development of the survey questions for these topics is now underway. The data from these topics will be able to be analysed along with the many other items of information about people's life circumstances to be collected in the survey."

The ABS also has a new publication called Indicators of Community Connection that is due November 2005. The product will contain data on topics related to the elements of the social capital framework from existing ABS sources, in the form of indicators, analysis and graphics.

Once the ABS has authoritative measures of Social Capital, Council will be able to proceed with the Audit of Social Capital, either in-house or by accessing data directly from the ABS, dependant on available resources.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

Details on Social Capital may allow Council to focus efforts on areas of need within the community.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Nil

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

- *Director's Review*

As per the report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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K J Finnie
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES