



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

11th October 2005

DCS6	APPLICATION FOR HALF-DAY HOLIDAYS IN 2006
	FILE: * PJH

SUMMARY:

Reporting on applications made to Council for two half-day holidays in Kempsey Shire in 2006.

TTTTT

Council has received two (2) applications for half-day public holidays in 2006 being: -

- Wednesday 26th April 2006 – from Central North Coast National Agricultural Society Ltd for Kempsey Show
- Wednesday 3rd May 2006 – from Kempsey Race Club for Kempsey Cup.

Council has given notice to the public through advertising over the past three (3) weeks and has written to the local Chambers of Commerce.

To the date of preparing this report no submissions have been received with submissions closing 30th September 2005. Council will be advised if any late submissions are received prior to the meeting.

Should Council resolve to approve these proposed half-day holidays, the Director General NSW Department of Industrial Relations must be notified in writing by mid November to allow for gazettal and advertising of the dates in the Government Gazette in December 2005.

Council practice in past years has been to also place the following advertisement in the weeks leading up to these holidays to clarify the requirements on local business houses: -

"Local public holidays are gazetted under the Banks and Bank Holidays Act of 1912. This Act requires that banks are closed on local public holidays. An appointed local holiday under the Act benefits employees who have an industrial award, agreement or contract of employment which confers a right of paid absence (or penalty rates in lieu) on the local public holiday. In absence of such express coverage within an applicable industrial instrument, the conferring of the benefit of a local public holiday to employees is entirely within the discretion of the individual employers."

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

These events are significant social events for the Kempsey Shire area and also attract visitors to the area.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The implication for Council directly is that wages and salaries for Council staff to be allocated two half-day public holidays in the vicinity of \$44,000. The businesses of the Shire would have a similar implication.

The implication for the community generally and the organisations concerned is the economic benefit of many people who would otherwise be at work, being able to attend the events.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

The half-day holidays, once Council has agreed to support them must be gazetted by the Minister.

- ***Director's Review***

As per report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council make application to the Director General NSW Department of Industrial Relations for two (2) half-day holidays in the Kempsey Shire in 2006, being 26th April and 3rd May 2006.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES