



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

11th April 2006

DSS12 CHILL COOK MEALS KEMPSEY HOSPITAL
FILE: 46 (308532) GRW {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on a response from Mr Chris Crawford, Chief Executive Officer, North Coast Area Health Service in relation to a motion raised by Councillor John Bowell requesting information on the likelihood of chill cook meals being introduced at Kempsey Hospital.



DESCRIPTION:

At the Kempsey Shire Council meeting of 13th December 2005, Councillor John Bowell moved the following motion: -

"That the Chief Executive Officer North Coast Area Health Service, Mr Chris Crawford be requested to advise if the provision of chill cook meals is on the agenda for the Kempsey District Hospital.

That in the event that chill cook meals were to be introduced into Kempsey District Hospital would the Chief Executive Officer North Coast Area Health Service consider the economic impacts in so far as the purchase of goods etc and the side effect of employment within the Kempsey Shire".

Council resolved at its meeting of 13th December 2005: -

"That the Chief Executive Officer North Coast Area Health Service, Mr Chris Crawford be advised that Kempsey Shire Council does not support the provision of meals from outside the Shire to the Kempsey District Hospital".

On 4th January 2006 Mr Stewart Dowrick responded to a letter from the Manager of Community and Lifestyle Services seeking confirmation whether chill cook meals were to be introduced at Kempsey Hospital. Assurances were also sought to ascertain whether the economic impacts of such a move would be closely monitored by the North Coast Area Health Service.

Mr Dowrick's response [\(Appendix G\)](#) of 4th January advised that the matter had been referred to Ms Carmen Rechbauer the new Manager of Shared Business Services. Mr Dowrick also advised that the NCAHS would continue to work collaboratively with site management, Health Support and staff in regard to the future delivery of food services at Kempsey Hospital.

On 1st February 2006 Ms Carmen Rechbauer confirmed that Kempsey District Hospital has been using the cook chill technology for a number of years in particular for its Meals on Wheels service [\(Appendix H\)](#). Over the past three months items such as soup and casseroles have been provided from the cook chill kitchen in Casino. She confirmed that individual food products are cook chilled not whole meals.

Ms Rechbauer acknowledged that Kempsey Shire Council does not support the provision of meals from outside the Kempsey area. She advised that NSW Health has the responsibility to ensure services are provided in the most effective manner possible, whilst taking into consideration issues such as local economic impacts.

She has issued an invitation for Council to meet with Mr Garry O'Sullivan the Manager of Area Food Services to provide a tour of the Kempsey kitchen and to provide details of its current and proposed operations.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

Environmental

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

▪ *Social*

Concerns have been expressed by other Local Governing bodies that NSW Health Officials are not listening to the views of rural communities prior to the introduction of cook chill technology.

▪ *Economic (Financial)*

It is feared that the introduction of cook chill technology on a large scale will have a significant economic impact on the local economy in Kempsey.

▪ *Policy or Statutory*

There are no policy or statutory implications arising from this report.

▪ *Acting Director's Review*

It is recommended that Council avail itself of the offer to meet with officials from Area Food Services, to ascertain

more about its current and proposed operations at Kempsey District Hospital.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the content of this report be noted.

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A P Vermeulen
Acting DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES