



DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

12th September 2006

**DSDS10 FOOD SURVEILLANCE UPDATE
FILE: 128 JGR**

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the progress of Councils Food Surveillance Program.



Council's Environmental Health Officer John Robertson is currently the Mid North Coast representative for the NSW Local Council Food Regulatory Liaison Group. The Sate meeting was held on the 16 August 2006 with much of the discussion revolving around the Food Regulation Partnership Model.

The Food Partnership Model between Local Government and the NSW Food Authority has been adopted by the State Government and will be gazetted shortly for commencement 1 July 2007.

Council previously resolved to undertake a Category B" Role in respect to Food Surveillance which will require Council to undertake the following activities:-

- 1 Urgent Food Safety response in accordance with a set protocol
- 2 Routine inspection of retail premises – High Risk premises to be inspected twice (2) per year.
- 3 Retail premises enforcement – issue of relevant notices, pins etc.
- 4 Food complaint investigations.

It should be noted that because Council will enter into a Service Agreement with the NSW Food Authority, six (6) monthly activity reports must be forward to the Authority detailing the number of inspections and complaints Council has undertaken.

To meet the NSW Food Authority Services Agreement, a structured program of Food Surveillance will be necessary from Council.

Kempsey Council hosted the Mid North Coast Food Surveillance group on the 25 August 2006. Representatives from five (5) Councils attended the meeting. Mr Philip Bird Local Government Liaison Co-ordinator attended the meeting and presented a training package on the "Food Regulation Partnership".

Mr Bird intends to present the same package to senior Staff, Councillors and Mayors at Forums such as the Local Government and Shires Association.

During April and May 2006, a total of 125 food premises were inspected by Council officers to ensure compliance with Standard 3.2.2 Food Safety Practices and General Requirements; Standard 3.2.3 Food Remises and Equipment of the Australia and New Zealand Food Standard Code with only four premises requiring urgent work to be carried out and re-inspected.

Report Implications:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

The community has an expectation that Council has a role in the regulation of food related matters. Council has Authorised Officers that work within the district, have local knowledge and can utilise Council's data base in respect to the food premises.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Fees and Charges for inspections will be set by Council which will provide a source of funding for food regulatory work.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Council appoints Authorised Officers to undertake food premises inspections; Council would enter into a service agreement with NSW Food Authority.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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R B Pitt

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