



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

12th September 2006

DSS15 KEMPSEY SWIMMING POOL
FILE: 460 APV

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the present position of the solar pool heating at the Kempsey Swimming Pool.



At Council's meeting on 8 August 2006, Council resolved "*That a report be submitted to the September meeting of Council advising the present position and this be followed up with a subsequent report on proposed action in respect to the Solar Heating Installation at the Kempsey Swimming Centre*".

Council's records indicate that in 1995/96 and 1996/97 an expenditure of approximately \$80,000 was incurred to develop and install a solar heating facility at the Kempsey pool complex. This also included the purchase of 'blankets' and stainless steel rollers. The project was funded principally by community contributions.

Whilst heating of the pool was deemed by the users to be successful and beneficial, difficulties were experienced regarding operational aspects of the pool heating. These included:

- Water in the 50m pool and 25m pool was inter-connected and could not be isolated. This arrangement was inflexible and inefficient as it did not allow either pool to be heated separately.
- Difficulties were experienced by staff and volunteers in the operation of applying and removing the heating covers. This was of concern from an Occupational Health & Safety aspect.
- The condition of the rubber solar heating panels and tubing has a short life span.

In 2004, the grandstand on the eastern side of the 25m pool was deemed to be unsafe and was subsequently removed. The

demolition of the grandstand necessitated the removal of the solar panels that were attached to its roof.

The removal of the solar panels from the 25m grandstand, the inability to utilize the solar panels on the shelter at the eastern end of the main pool and the general deterioration of the panels resulted in the system becoming inoperational. The condition of the solar panels and tubing is considered to be beyond repair and replacement by a new system is seen to be the only option.

Solar heating systems currently being manufactured are more efficient and are made from poly-carbonate tubing with a 25 year life guarantee. Modifications to the pipework at the complex have been undertaken to allow the water in the 50m pool and the 25m pool to be isolated. No funding has been provided in the budget to repair or replace the solar heating at the pool.

The existing leases at the Kempsey Swimming Centre, Crescent Head Pool and South West Rocks Pool expire at the end of the 2006/2007 swimming season. Some of the lessees of these pools have previously expressed interest in developing proposals to provide heating at the pools provided a long-term lease could be offered. A long-term lease would provide security for the lessee, would enable the lessee to recoup any financial outlays and could provide enhanced facilities for the community.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil.

- ***Social***

Solar heating of the pools would enable the pool complexes to extend their operating season and/or provide a facility that better meets the needs of the community.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The installation of solar heating at the pools would result in additional operating costs for Council. This amount is dependent on a number of factors and cannot be determined at this time.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council seek expressions of interest for the long-term lease of the pool complexes at Kempsey, Crescent Head and South West Rocks.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES