



## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT**

12<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**DSS2                    MACLEAY VALLEY EMERGENCY RISK  
MANAGEMENT STUDY  
FILE: 811            MKF**

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on the Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study and the subsequent application for grant funding under the Local Grant Scheme.



A report was submitted to Council at its meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> October 2005 concerning the Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study.

The report outlined the findings of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) review of Australia's approach in dealing with mitigation to guard against disasters, response during a disaster event, and post disaster relief and recovery.

Central to the new approach was a systematic and widespread national process of disaster risk assessments. The responsibility for the implementation of the new Emergency Risk Management (ERM) process rests with Local Government and is managed through the Local Emergency Management Committee.

A major consequence of not undertaking the required ERM process is the possibility of a significant reduction in disaster relief assistance to Local Government Areas in the event of a disaster.

Kempsey Shire Council was successful in securing funding under the Natural Disaster Mitigation Programme (NDMP) to undertake the Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study. The estimated project value of \$40,000.00 was jointly funded by the Commonwealth, State and Council.

The funding agreement relates to a project concerning sources of risk in relation to Natural Disasters. However the ERM process as outlined in the NSW State Emergency Management Committee's

"Implementation Guide" requires that both natural and technological hazards be reviewed.

Kempsey Shire Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) resolved at its meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2005 to form an Emergency Risk Management (ERM) Workgroup to undertake the Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study.

The ERM Workgroup commenced the project on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005 and to date have met on eleven (11) occasions. The draft report is nearing finalisation and is due to be released for public consultation within the next few weeks.

Mindful of the fact that the current Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study (Natural Disasters) is only half of the required ERM process, a further application for funding was submitted under the Local Grant Scheme in March 2006.

Formal notification has been received from Emergency Management Australia that Kempsey Shire Council has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$25,000.00 plus GST towards the Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management (Technological and Other Hazards) Study and the draft funding agreement has been received. The grant is a stand alone grant and does not require a funding contribution from Council.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

### ▪ ***Environmental***

***The Study will identify risks to the environment and provide a trigger to review plans and processes for the environment. In addition treatment strategies will be considered to reduce the impacts of disaster (Natural, Technological and other) events where practicable but also review recovery and rehabilitation plans.***

### ▪ ***Social***

***The study will assist in building closer relationships between the community and the various emergency services, government and non-government organisations. The study will also assess the vulnerability of the various communities and therefore allow strategies to be developed and put in place to increase their awareness and subsequently their resilience.***

### ▪ ***Economic (Financial)***

***The economic implications are that Council is required to undertake the study. In the event that Council does not undertake the study it is at risk of receiving reduced disaster relief funding in the event of a disaster.***

*The current offer of funding does not require a contribution from Council.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Kempsey Shire Council has a statutory obligation to undertake the study.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the offer of funding of \$25,000.00 under the Local Grant Scheme for the Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Study be accepted.**

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**A P Vermeulen**  
**DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**