



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

12th December 2006

<b>DR5</b>	<b>WUTUMA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE AND KEEPING PLACE</b>	<b>FILE: 310</b>	<b>DFS</b>	<b>{ Folio No. * }</b>
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### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on attendance by Councillors Dean Saul and Ellis Walker, representing the Mayor, at a forum held at the Coffs Harbour Indigenous Co-ordination Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2006 to discuss the development of the Wutuma Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place.



### **DESCRIPTION:**

A business plan and PowerPoint presentation of the proposal was presented by members of the Wutuma Committee. Initial discussions at this forum centred on the benefits of the proposal and to gauge potential in kind and financial support of this project. Many letters of support were tabled at the forum from principal Aboriginal support services, Land Councils, TAFE NSW, Kempsey Shire Council and the Leader of NSW Nationals, Andrew Stoner MP.

A range of key interested parties were in attendance, including leading Indigenous community members, Commonwealth, State and regional funding agencies. Participants at the forum outlined their agency's involvement to date. Councillors Saul and Walker were warmly congratulated by the forum, as they spoke proudly of Council's contribution of land at South Kempsey, gifted as a gateway site in 1988 to the Wutuma Aboriginal Keeping Place Corporation. The purpose being a centre for Aboriginal managed Cultural Tourism.

Wutuma Committee members outlined their proposal for building a complex of five buildings, ideally in one stage, for a cost of three million dollars (\$3,000,000), comprising of an Administration & Broadcasting Centre, Visitors Centre, Community Hall & Café, Craft Centre and Keeping Place.

Discussion and debate ranged from the feasibility and demand for such a facility, and the need for whole of Government approach, through to the expected tourism, educational and job training benefits and other flow-on effects that such a proposed facility may offer to the entire region.

- Actions arising from this forum are that DEWR is prepared to fund a Economic Development Officer for Kempsey for a period of twelve months, this position being hosted by the ACC. The position would not

be fully allocated to Wutuma, as it is not seen as a full time activity. Priority would be given to assisting in getting the various funding submissions etc together for Wutuma, as well as offering ongoing support for the Committee. The EDO will assist in Indigenous business development in the Kempsey area.

- DSRD has confirmed with the Wutuma Keeping Place committee that a consultant will be funded to complete a business plan and bring it up-to-date so that it is appropriate for Sustainable Regions funding.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

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- *Social*

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- *Economic (Financial)*

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- *Policy or Statutory*

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**COUNCILLOR D F SAUL**