



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

12th December 2006

DSS10	MACLEAY WATER – WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM
	FILE: 264 TAK {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on a partnership between Kempsey Shire Council and various stakeholders to provide a water education program to schools in the district.

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DESCRIPTION:

A memorandum of understanding was signed on Tuesday 27th November, 2006 setting out the intentions of North Coast Water, Coffs Harbour Water, Macleay Water and the NSW Department of Education's Cascade Environmental Education Centre to commit to work together to provide school children (K-12) in the Clarence Valley Council, Coffs Harbour Council and Kempsey Shire Council local government areas with the Waterwise Schools Program developed by, and under licence, from Water Corporation.

The Waterwise Schools Program takes a whole-of-school, long term approach to addressing water sustainability issues with students. The benefits of the program are that it is linked to curriculum frameworks across all major learning areas; it promotes active citizenship; and encourages community / school involvement and education.

The partnership between the water utilities and the Department of Education shows great potential combining knowledge and experience of local government with the delivery and know-how of the NSW Department of Education to create a successful, sustainable water awareness program that will benefit our decision makers of tomorrow

The Waterwise Schools Program is set to commence in pilot schools within each water utility region in Term 1 of 2007 and later roll out across other schools.

Frederickton Primary School have nominated to participate as the first pilot school for Kempsey Shire and the program will commence early in Term 1, 2007.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

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Outcomes from the education program will result in a better awareness of water sustainability issues with long term environmental benefits.

- *Social*

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education has the potential to develop in the future a range of partnerships for community education programs through local schools.

- *Economic (Financial)*

An amount of \$10,000 has been committed to the development and implementation of the program. Funds are available within the current budget allocation.

- *Policy or Statutory*

There are no policy or statutory implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES