



## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT**

14th February 2006

**DSS22      YOUTH INFORMATION REFERRAL SERVICE  
FILE: 343      GRW**

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on progress in the establishment of a Youth Information and Referral Centre at Kempsey PCYC South Kempsey.



### **DESCRIPTION:**

Quotations are currently being obtained to carry out works on the cottage adjacent the PCYC. Plumbing, electrical and carpentry works will need to be undertaken in order to bring the dwelling up to a satisfactory standard for a Referral Centre.

It is expected that all quotations will be received by the middle of February 2006. Once this process is complete it is expected that renovation works will commence soon after.

The Department of Community and Lifestyle Services, the funding body for the Youth Information and Referral Service has agreed to investigate options in relation to the relocation of the service to the PCYC with the following provisions:

1. Council will engage an independent facilitator to:
  - Manage the issues between Kempsey Shire Council and the Kempsey Youth Network as a result of Council's decision not to proceed with the Memorial Avenue site.;
  - Consult with Kempsey Youth Network in relation to the house adjacent to the PCYC as an alternative site, and canvass other suitable locations;
  - Progress a way forward for the establishment and operation of the Kempsey Youth Centre in consultation and partnership with Kempsey Youth Network,
2. Submit a revised project plan for the youth centre, inclusive of timeframes and a revised budget in keeping with the original

approval.

3. Investigate safe transport options for young people if the house adjacent to the Kempsey PCYC were to be the preferred option.
4. Investigate lighting for the walkway bridge near Kempsey PCYC,

Upon receipt of information from PCYC (Revised Project Plan) a meeting will take place with an independent facilitator Trudy Hodge-Meli to clarify any outstanding issues arising from the report.

Negotiations have commenced with the RTA in relation to the installation of lighting on the South Kempsey Railway Bridge. RTA planners have advised that the railway bridge will undergo a major facelift in 2006, in order to bring the structure up to compulsory safety standards.

The RTA are keen to enter into a partnership with Kempsey Shire Council in relation to the upgrade of the bridge structure. Negotiations are continuing.

#### **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***There are no environmental implications arising from this report.***

- ***Social***

***Opposition to the relocation of the service to the PCYC South Kempsey continues. Once the Revised Project Plan is released it is hoped that opposition to the relocation of the service will diminish.***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

***Grant funds are currently being held by Council in relation to this project. It is envisaged that quotations for repairs and upgrades to lighting on the South Kempsey Bridge will all fall within budget. Accurate costs will become available once all quotations are received in late February 2006.***

- ***Policy or Statutory***

***There are no policy or statutory implications arising from this report.***

- ***Director's Review***

***As per the report.***

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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**K J Finnie**  
**DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**