



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

14th February 2006

GM2	AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE CITIES
FILE: *	AVB

SUMMARY:

To provide information on the ALP's discussion paper on Urban Development Housing and Local Government.



DESCRIPTION:

The Australian Labour Party on the 1 December 2005 launched, "Australia's Future Cities". A discussion paper on Urban Development Housing and Local Government in an attempt to bring the policy debate on these critical issues into the National sphere. A copy of the discussion paper will be tabled at the Council meeting.

Senator Kim Carr, Shadow Minister for Housing, Urban Development Local Government and Territories is inviting submissions on the policy that the ALP will take to its 2007 National Conference and from there to the next election. Copies of the recommendations are outlined in [Appendix A](#)

The paper does recognise the importance of untied Financial Assistance Grants to Local Government and the burden of cost shifting. Mention that Labor supports the constitutional recognition of Local Government is made in the paper but is not included in the recommendations.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

The report deals with environmental considerations such as climate change, urban water management and energy consumption.

- *Social*

The ALP's stance on Urban Development and Housing issues are outlined in the report.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Many of the recommendations in the report affecting Local Government have financial implications.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council make a submission on the paper that includes support for an untied fixed financial commitment to Local Government at least equivalent to 1% of Commonwealth Revenue, a commitment to constitutional recognition and a commitment to the Roads to Recovery program.

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A V Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER