



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

14th November 2006

DSS8 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FILE: FM500 APV {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on grant offers for Kempsey's Floodplain Management Program.



DESCRIPTION:

Council at its meeting on 12th September 2006 resolved to accept the offer of financial assistance under the 1:1 maintenance component of the Floodplain Management Program for 2006/2007.

Council has now received advice from Hon. Ian McDonald, MLC, Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Mineral Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, of financial assistance in the amount of \$355,000 for its Floodplain Management Program for 2006/2007 under the 2:1 subsidy component.

Council has also received advice from Hon. Ian McDonald of financial assistance in the amount of \$30,000 for its Floodplain Management Program for 2006/2007 under the 1:1:1 subsidy component for the Kempsey Voluntary Purchase Scheme.

Details of the offers of assistance are shown in the following table:

	Program	Council Budget	Grant Offered	Matching Funds Required For Grant	Total Project Funds
Bank Protection	2:1	60,000	40,000	20,000	60,000
Floodgate Structure Replacement	2:1	225,000	150,000	75,000	225,000
Water Quality Monitoring	2:1	45,000	30,000	15,000	45,000
Macleay River Management Study	2:1	45,000	30,000	15,000	45,000

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Smithtown Gladstone Levee Concept Study	2:1	30,000	10,000	5,000	15,000
Macleay Floodplain Voluntary Rural House Raising Audit	2:1	30,000	15,000	7,500	22,500
Macleay Floodplain Voluntary Rural House Raising Scheme	2:1	160,000	50,000	25,000*	75,000
Yarrahapinni Wetland Investigation and Design	2:1	nil	30,000	15,000*	45,000
Kempsey Voluntary Purchase Scheme	1:1:1	100,000	30,000	15,000	45,000
TOTAL		695,000	385,000	192,500	577,500

* It is proposed that funds required to match the grant for the Rural House Raising Scheme will be contributed by the benefiting property owner. The funds in the amount of \$15,000 required to match the offer for the Yarrahapinni Wetland Project will be contributed by the Yarrahapinni Wetland Trust.

As can be seen from the above table, the offers for 2006/2007 are generally in line with Council's budget and the proposals as submitted to DNR. The reduction in budget proposed for Rural House Raising Project will limit the number of properties that can be assisted this financial year. The reduction in budget for the Floodway Voluntary Purchase Project should not have too much of an effect as funding offers from previous years have not yet been expended.

Under the Macleay River Management Study project, it is proposed that, in 2006/2007, the Kempsey Flood Study will be completed and work will commence on the Management Study and Plan for the Kempsey Urban Area.

The Lower Macleay Floodplain Management Plan identified the need to provide greater flood protection to the villages on the floodplain. The villages of Smithtown and Gladstone have approximately 125 and 100 dwellings respectively that are flooded above the floor in a 1% flood and the current levees only offer protection up to approximately the 1 in 5 year flood level. The funding provides for a concept design and feasibility study to be undertaken for ring levees. When the concept design is completed, Council would then decide whether to proceed to detailed design and construction or to adopt alternative methods of protection.

In rural areas often the only viable option to reduce the impacts of flooding on dwellings is to raise the actual dwelling. Council has resolved to undertake some preliminary investigations in order to determine if the scheme is viable and what the cost implications

would be. A field survey of rural dwellings on the floodplain has been undertaken to identify the number of houses that might benefit. The funding provided for the audit will enable an assessment to be made of their susceptibility to flooding, and the costs/benefits involved. Once the audit and assessment are completed, a further amount of \$50,000 is provided to assist with the raising of the properties with the highest priority.

As resolved by Council in March 2006, an application was submitted for grant funding for the Yarrahapinni Wetland Project to investigate and develop a concept design for a replacement structure upstream of the present floodgates. The structure will be an integral part of the restoration and rehabilitation of approximately 400ha of the Yarrahapinni Wetland and will complement the purchase of property currently being undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation (National Parks Service) in the area. Contributing funds will be provided by the Yarrahapinni Wetland Trust.

Should Council wish to take up the offer, acceptance in accordance with the Conditions for Financial Assistance under the Floodplain Management Program needs to be confirmed within 45 days.

Financial Implication

The financial implication of the following recommendation would be a contribution from Council of \$152,500. \$178,000 is provided from Loan Funds and Extraordinary Rate Increase Loan Funds in Council's 2006/2007 budget to match the grant offer.

Social/Environmental implications

All items in the proposed program are considered important in achieving the aims of the Lower Macleay Floodplain Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the offers of financial assistance in the amount of \$385,000 for the Floodplain Management Program for 2006/2007 be accepted in accordance with the Conditions for Financial Assistance under the Floodplain Management Program.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES