



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

MAYORAL REPORT

14th November 2006

MM2 KEMPSEY SHOWGROUND TRUST MEETING
FILE: LA2942 EAG {Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Meeting with the Showground Trust, Members of Show Society, Representatives of the Department of Lands, State member Mr Andrew Stoner, Council General Manager and myself to review the continuing position of the Kempsey Showground. Date 23 October 2006



DESCRIPTION:

Showground Trust has falling membership and at the time of the meeting had three members. Advertisements for additional Trust members' responses had been with the Lands Department for some time. The Trust is feeling that they cannot continue. Further that the increasing costs to bring the buildings up to standard are beyond the Trusts ability.

The Trust again requested that Council take over the trusteeship of the Showgrounds with the current issues not resolved. There have been several meetings with the Trust and Lands Department in the past with the last meeting being with the Minister during his recent visit to Kempsey Correctional Centre. At this meeting the Minister was quoted as saying that he would investigate the possibility of funding to bring the buildings up to standard. However this was several months ago and like previous like statements in the past, appears to have been lost.

Council's position remains that we would not take responsibility for the Showground until such time as the Department of Lands (the responsible authority) completes the required repairs and upgrades to bring all the buildings up to standard.

Options for funding were canvassed.

A - 2

While the option of the Trust resigning was canvassed they are not prepared to do this at present.

It was also identified that we need to increase the use of the facilities at the Showground.

Outcome of the meeting was that all options would be pursued including following up on correspondence with the Department following our last meeting with them.

Since this meeting the Department of Lands have announced the appointment of four additional Trustees to the Showground Trust: -

- Diana Woodward,
- Tina Clarke,
- Ken Salmond and
- Gabi Brie

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Repairs and upgrade to the buildings would improve the local precinct

- *Social*

The Showground is Heritage listed and a local icon, used by many groups within the shire. See also environmental comments.

- *Economic (Financial)*

The showground has the potential to be a drain on Councils resources unless repairs and upgrades completed prior to Council assuming responsibility. Also need to increase income from use of facilities.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Further discussion with the Department of Lands to pursue the matter of funding for repairs and upgrade to the required standards.
2. Encourage additional membership of Showground Trust
3. Review Council's position following resolution of (1).

.....
E A Green
MAYOR