



MAYORAL REPORT

14th November 2006

MM5	PURPORTED RELOCATION OF ABORIGINAL FAMILIES FROM DUBBO
FILE: *	EAG {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Report on meeting to discuss purported relocation of Aboriginal families from Dubbo to Kempsey Shire.



DESCRIPTION:

It was reported that the Department of Housing had relocated six families to Kempsey Shire into public housing and that there were another 60 families to be relocated. Further, that the families already relocated were creating problems within the community and the local Aboriginal Land Council and Elders Council were very concerned at the potential breakdown of relationships within their own and the wider communities.

Meeting was held of all stakeholders on Monday, 6 November 2006 to identify exactly what was happening and what future plans could possibly impact on Kempsey. Participants included:

- Department of Housing
- Department of Community Services
- Police
- Aboriginal Land Council
- Aboriginal Elders Council
- Aboriginal Broadcasters; and
- Council

Good discussion ensued and it was identified that six families had moved to Kempsey at their request as they had family connections; one of these had subsequently returned to Dubbo. The Department of Housing stated that there are no plans to relocate any further families from Dubbo to Kempsey. The Aboriginal Land Council and Elders Council identified that there were specific

cultural problems associated with such relocation which need to be addressed.

There is to be a further meeting between Department of Housing, Aboriginal Land Council and the Dunghutti Elders Council to further these issues.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

The potential for social disruption is significant and further work needs to be undertaken by the Dunghutti Elders and the Kempsey Aboriginal Land Council to ensure integration of inward migration.

- *Economic (Financial)*

Potential for economic loss stemming from social disruption reduced.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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E A Green
MAYOR