



## MAYORAL REPORT

18th July 2006

**MM1**

**VISIT BY MINISTER KELLY**

**FILE: 579**

**JACH**

**{Folio No. \*}**

### **SUMMARY:**

To advise the outcomes of Council's meeting with the Minister of Lands and Emergency Services.



### **DESCRIPTION:**

On Thursday, 22nd June the Minister of Lands, and Emergency Services visited Kempsey. Council had the opportunity to submit to him, prior to his visit, a number of matters of concern for discussion as part of his visit.

I was invited to accompany the Minister to South West Rocks where he visited the Historical Cottages, Horseshoe Bay Reserve and the Matty's Flat Boatshed. In South West Rocks the Minister announced: -

- That he had considered Council's response to the communities concerns regarding the caravan park at Horseshoe Bay and has told the Department of Lands to withdraw the plan for cabins and stick with the current arrangements.
- That the two boatman's cottages will be retained as a community resource at minimum rental.
- That tenders will be called in September for the lease of the Mattys Flat Boatshed which will include a licence to pursue further marina development opportunities.

Councillors Sowter, Hunt, McWilliam, Saul and myself and the General Manager attended a luncheon to farewell the General Manager of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre which was followed by an inspection of the Correctional Centre and a meeting with the Minister and his Regional manager, Craig Barnes. Councillor Walker joined us for the inspection and the meeting.

The issues discussed with the Minister were: -

✓ Lands Department – Crown Roads

The Minister was adamant that the Department of Lands is not responsible for the maintenance of Crown Roads. Once Council approves of a subdivision or a building accessed by a Crown Road they are required to accept responsibility for the road. The property owner can do minor improvement work to a road with consent.

✓ Closure of Unmade Local Roads

The impasse between Council and the Department was explained. The Department of Lands is to obtain a legal agreement. In the meantime Council will submit a Road Closure Application for one of the identified blocks. It is clear that the Department wants the revenue to finance their budget.

✓ South West Rocks Heritage Cottages

The Minister has advised that although the Boatman's Cottages will be rented to community groups at minimum rent the Pilot's Cottage will be commercially let to pay for the subsidisation of the Boatman's Cottages.

✓ Matty's Flat Boatshed

At Council's insistence the tender for the lease will also include the provision of a pump out facility.

✓ Kempsey Showground

The issue of the Showground Trust having access to the Caravan Park Levy. The Minister advised that Department would look into this and would also investigate other means of financing the necessary improvements needed at the Showground.

✓ Goolawah Reserve and Grassy Head / Stuarts Point Reserve

The Minister advised that in the past it was often necessary to transfer lands to National parks in order to protect the environment. This was no longer the case. The Lands Department is able to protect lands under existing laws and under no circumstances will it agree to the transfer of land from the Department of Lands to National Parks. The Minister advised that he has approved a grant of \$100,000 to Council to prepare a Plan of Management for the Goolawah Reserve under the control of both the Department of Lands and Council and to investigate a walking track. Moneys not expended on the plan may be spent on capital improvements.

✓ Emergency Services

The Minister was of the opinion that the emergency response issues in the South Kempsey area had been resolved and he would get back to us on the matter.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*The provision of a grant of \$100,000 will allow for the Goolawah area to be managed. There does not appear to be any benefit in Council surrendering care, control and management of the area as the Department of Lands will not agree to the transfer to National parks.*

- *Social*

*Nil*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*The Plan of Management of the caravan park will now be included in the Plan of management for Goolawah Reserve.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted.**

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J A C Hayes  
MAYOR