



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

20th June 2006

GM1	DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN
	FILE: 339 AVB { Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Reporting to Council on the results of the public exhibition of the Draft Management Plan.



DESCRIPTION:

The Draft Management Plan has been on public exhibition from Tuesday, 9th May to 9.00am 13th June and the public has been invited to forward submissions where they have concerns.

A major proposal under the Management Plan is to apply to the Minister for Local Government for a Special Rate Variation of 6% over and above the 3.6% allowed by the Government for the 2006 / 07 year. A newsletter outlining the reasons for the application was delivered or posted to every household in the shire. Additional copies of the newsletter were made available at the Civic Centre, the libraries and other key locations throughout the Shire.

As well as inviting residents to make submissions in writing, by email, by Fax or by downloading the feedback form on Council's website in respect of the Special Rate Variation, a public meeting to discuss the Management Plan was held on Tuesday, 30th May and was attended by thirty one (31) people. The concerns expressed at that meeting have been provided to Councillors in note form under separate cover. At that meeting when asked to vote on the Special Rate Increase all 31 participants voted against the proposal.

Written submissions received in respect of the Management Plan are:

SPECIAL RATE INCREASE

In Favour

Against

Letters

Nil

38

Petitions

Nil

760

A copy of submissions has been provided to Councillors under separate cover.

As well a letter has been received from Combined Ratepayers Association advising that 1528 respondents to their survey opposed the special rate increase while 34 supported the special rate increase. This cannot be verified as Council has not received a copy of the survey responses.

Council also conducted a survey the results of which are;

Survey was;

- * sent to every ratepayer in a newsletter attached to their rates notice in late April.
- * placed in the Macleay Argus on 25/4
- * placed in the Happynings 19/4, 26/4 plus reminders 15/5 & 22/5
- * mentioned in the Mayoral Column on w/c 24/4
- * media release 25/5
- * available on line at our website for electronic submission

185 responses to Survey which supplied name & address

Seven anonymous replies were also received but the responses were not included in the survey because details could not be verified

This represents a response from **0.69%** of the shire's population based on 2001 Census figures of 26,936 people

97.8% of respondents were ratepayers

60.5% of respondents were not satisfied with roads and bridges.

87% of respondents felt it was IMPORTANT or VERY IMPORTANT to maintain roads and bridges in good condition.

66.5% of respondents felt that Council should allocate more funds to road and bridges

70.8% of respondents DID NOT support an increase in rates if the funds were spent specifically on maintaining the shire's roads and bridges

27.6% of respondents DID support an increase in rates if the funds were spent specifically on maintaining the shire's roads and bridges

Questions asked:

Please rate your satisfaction with condition of Council's road and bridge network:

Satisfied = 69 Not satisfied = 112 No response = 4

How important is it to you for Council to maintain the road and bridge network in good condition:

*Very important = 91 Important = 70
Minor importance = 19 Not important at all = 2
No response = 3*

Should Council allocate more funds to roads and bridges?

Yes = 122 No = 53 No response = 8

Are you prepared to support an increase in rates if the funds are used specifically on maintaining the Shire's roads & bridges?

Yes = 51 No = 131 Maybe = 1

Are you a ratepayer?

Yes = 181 No = 1 No response = 3

Council at its meeting held on 13th June considered a rescission motion to withdraw the application for the special rate increase. The rescission motion was lost.

The following changes need to be made to the draft budget for the 2006 / 07 year.

Job No.	Details	Adjustment	Comment
333900	Gravel resheeting	- \$75,000	Council resolution to increase working funds

80101	Recycling Income	-\$145,782	Recycling service delayed to 1.10.06
200115	Recycling Collection	-\$88,273	Recycling service delayed to 1.10.06
200115	Recycling Processing	-\$57,750	Recycling service delayed to 1.10.06
520118	Transfer to Reserve	+\$241	Recycling service delayed to 1.10.06
-	Kempsey Strategic Direction	-\$10,000	Error
-	ESD Policy Implementation	+\$10,000	Error
-	Bulk Recycling Bins	+\$16,000	Need to retain Norton Service for 3 months

The following changes need to be made to the draft Management Plan;

Page Detail

37 Second performance measure to be changed to "Progress on the Implementation of Council's strategic land use plans will be reported to Council twice a year.

42 Records

Change Description of Service to read;

"Provide Records Management in accordance with the requirements under the State Records Act".

Two submissions on aspects of the Management Plan have been received from Crescent Head Ratepayers Association and the Friends of South West Rocks [Appendix A - Part 1 and Part 2](#)

The Management Plan must be adopted prior to the end of the financial year and the last day for making a rate is the 31st July.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

Nil

- **Social**

Nil

- **Economic (Financial)**

Council needs to have a balanced budget for 2006 / 07. Adoption of the Management Plan will enable Council to

levy its rates for the 2006 / 07 year and provide its budgeted works and services.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

- *General Manager's Review*

As per report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council consider the submissions received as a result of advertising of the draft Management Plan, make any necessary adjustments to the budget and Management Plan and adjust the Management Plan and budget as outlined in this report.

That the Management Plan for the 2006 / 07 year be adopted.

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A V Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER