



DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

8th May 2007

**DSDS2 MACLEAY RIVER FLOODPLAIN PROJECT PRESENTATION
FILE: FM520 RFK {Folio No. *}**

SUMMARY:

Reporting on a presentation by Councils Senior Natural Resources Officer in regards environmental projects undertaken through the Macleay River Floodplain Project.

◆◆◆◆◆

DESCRIPTION:

Kempsey Shire Council established the Macleay River Floodplain Project (MRFP) in January 2000 with assistance from NSW Fisheries and Department of Land & Water Conservation. The MRFP is an initiative of Council in partnership with state agencies to address environmental issues pertaining to floodplain management during non-flood periods and is a positive development towards solving and managing environmental problems associated with the Macleay River Floodplain. The MRFP assists landholders groups to undertake a wide range of environmental improvement/rehabilitation projects. A steering committee with representation from Council, local and state government agencies, and farming industry and environmental interest representatives was formed to oversee implementation of the works program. To-date projects undertaken include;

- floodgate and drain management projects
- ASS scald rehabilitation and management projects
- water quality and aquatic habitat improvement projects
- backswamp and wetland management and native vegetation projects

The objectives of the MRFP are to work with community / landholder groups to establish a consensus approach to improving terrestrial and aquatic environmental conditions of the Macleay River floodplain. Initially, the MRFP has focused on priority areas identified within the Macleay Floodplain Management Plan, Macleay Wetland Management Plan, Upper Belmore Floodplain Management Strategy and the DLWC ASS Hotspot Report. Landholders connected to or associated with areas in need of environmental considerations are formed into management groups to actively participate in projects. Where possible, and when funding arrangement permits, local landholders are engaged to undertake works required to complete projects.

This method is not only very cost effective but ensures the farmer's knowledge is incorporated in any design aspects. It also instils a sense of ownership of the project and provides a greater understanding of the intent of specific projects.

The presentation to Council will highlight a number of projects and the outcomes achieved.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

There are no adverse environmental issues associated with the MRFP. The MRFP has resulted in improved environmental outcomes within the Macleay River floodplain.

- ***Social***

There are no significant social issues associated with the MRFP.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The MRFP has been successful in attracting considerable amounts of funding to the Shire.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

- ***The Lower Macleay Floodplain Management Plan – August 1999***
- ***The Upper Belmore River Floodplain Strategy – July 2000***
- ***The Macleay Wetland Management Plan – March 1999***

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

.....
R B Pitt
DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES