



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

10th July 2007

DCCS8	TRANSFER OF GOOLAWAH RESERVE TRUST MANAGEMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS FILE: 142 SJR
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on the finalisation of the transfer of Goolawah Reserve Crown Lands to the Department of Lands (DoL).

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DESCRIPTION:

Council was originally approached by representatives of the Department of Conservation (DEC) in February 2006 to discuss the possibility of Council relinquishing care and control of Goolawah Reserve. If Council agreed to that approach DEC would seek the transfer of those reserves to their control.

Throughout May/June 2006 989 petitions were received supporting Council relinquishing Goolawah Reserve to DEC as a Nature Reserve or similar, these petitions were reported to Council at the July 2006 meeting of Council.

Representatives from Council met with the Minister for Lands on 22 June 2006 whereby it was made clear that he would not consent to the transfer of lands to DEC.

Council resolved at the November 2006 General Meeting of Council;

- 1. That Council as Reserve Trust Manager, advise the Department of Lands of consent to relinquish trusteeship of Reserve 1003268 and reserve 8864.***
- 2. That Council advise the Department of Lands that it has no objection to the establishment of a community reserve trust to manage the reserve lands south of Crescent Head.***

Meetings were held with representatives from DoL to progress the resolution and to ensure that the DoL take over outstanding loans of the Reserve Trust totalling \$24,445.84.

Following gazettal notifying the revocation of Council as the trust managers on 29 June 2007 the DoL have confirmed that those

outstanding loans due from the Reserve Trust are now the responsibility of the DoL as the current Trust Managers.

Up until the date of revocation of the Reserve Trust Council had engaged Family Holiday Experience Pty Ltd as contract managers for the primitive camping areas of Racecourse Headland and Delicate Nobby which were contained within the Goolawah Reserve Crown Lands. Agreement has been reached between Family Holiday Experiences Pty Ltd and Council to terminate the contract management agreement.

The DoL have indicated that it is their intention to engage the local community through the establishment of a community reserve Trust.

The proposed community reserve Trust would be formed following a call for expressions of interest within the community. Council would be afforded the opportunity of an Ex-Officio position on the Trust. Expressions of interest would be assessed and if suitably qualified appointed to the Trust.

The DoL has appointed a Ranger/Project Officer to oversee Goolawah Reserve and to coordinate public consultation and planning and also monitor and assist with land management activities over the area.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil implications

- *Social*

The local community have sent a clear message to Council that they have concerns for the future of the unique Crown lands south of Crescent Head. Once the Community Reserve Trust is established it will provide those who are passionate about the area with an opportunity for input into its future directions. This outcome should be viewed in a positive light by the community as an example of Council heeding the opinion of its constituents.

- *Economic (Financial)*

The outstanding debt of \$24,445.84 relating to the Goolawah Reserve Trust will be taken over by the Department of Lands. The net cost of operating Goolawah Reserve has been in the vicinity of \$20,000 pa, funded from the Caravan Parks Reserve.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil implications

- *Directors Review*

Council's request for DoL to pay Council for the value of assets (approx. \$70,000) has been denied on the basis that the assets were funded by the Trust.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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G B Snape

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES