



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

10th July 2007

DSDS7

SUSTAINABLE CHOICE PROGRAM

FILE: 1022 NDH

{ Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Reporting to Council on the development and progress of the Sustainable Choice Program within Council.

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DESCRIPTION:

In December 2006, The Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) of NSW invited Council to join the Sustainable Choice Program. This sustainable purchasing program is an update of original Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance (LGBRA) which Council signed up to in 2004. The new program will be broadened beyond buying recycled products to include all sustainable products – those that save water and energy, reduce pollution, contain recycled content and minimise waste, and help Council improve efficiency and cut costs.

Sustainable Choice differs from the Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance in that it is not a commercial program. It will focus instead on information sharing between Councils to promote new and innovative products, training for Council staff and capacity building to facilitate increased levels of sustainable purchasing within Councils.

Sustainable purchasing will assist Council meet its Ecologically Sustainable Development obligations under the Local Government Act 1993 and address the triple bottom line (environment, social and economic) outcomes outlined in the Kempsey Shire Ecologically Sustainable Development Strategy. The Sustainable Choice Program provides support and guidance to councils on products and services that save energy or water, contain recycled content, are non toxic, have greenhouse or biodiversity benefits, or advance Council's social or environmental objectives in a desirable way.

The Program has already attracted many Councils, with a good regional representation, including:

- North Sydney Council
- Kogarah Council
- Rockdale Council
- Bathurst Regional Council
- Palerang Council
- Marrickville Council
- Port Macquarie Hastings Council

- Mosman Council
- Penrith Council
- Forbes Shire Council
- Dubbo City Council; and
- Kempsey Shire Council

There were no fees or charges to join the Sustainable Choice Program or ongoing membership fees and membership does not oblige Council to enter into any purchasing agreements. However, opportunities for joint purchasing agreements that are advantageous to Council may arise.

Progress to date

Council accepted the invitation to join the Program in May 2007. One of the requirements for joining the Program was to establish an internal working group to help drive the process within Council. A Sustainable Choice Implementation Team has been created. Team members include representatives from procurement management, waste services & recycling, fleet management, and sustainable development. Meetings have been held to draft and adopt Team aims and objectives ([Appendix D – Page G15](#)) and begin implementing actions.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

The Sustainable Choice will help Council meet a number of environmental objectives listed in the ESD Strategy, including a reduction in water and energy use, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and use of products with recycled content.

- *Social*

Becoming a member of the Sustainable Choice Program will enable Council to play a leadership role in the local community.

- *Economic (Financial)*

The Sustainable Choice Program is likely to result in potential cost savings through resource sharing, recycling and combined purchasing powers.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the development and progress of the Sustainable Choice Program within Council.

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R B Pitt

DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES