



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

10th July 2007

DSS4

ROAD SAFETY OFFICER PROGRAM

FILE: 211 NJT

{Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the Council Road Safety Officer Program.

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DESCRIPTION:

As part of the deliberations for the 2007 / 08 Budget, funding was withdrawn for the continuation of Council's participation in the Council Road Safety Officer Program for the second half of the year.

Council and the community have received significant benefits over the last 2.5 years from its participation in the Council Road Safety Officer Program and as a result road safety initiatives now have a significant impetus within Kempsey Shire.

Council entered into partnership with the RTA and employed a Road Safety Officer on a 3-year contract in January 2005 with the employment of Mark Thompson. The initial 12 months was fully funded by the RTA and the remaining 2 years is funded on 50 / 50 basis. Any periods of extension of the program are funded on a 50 / 50 basis.

A key outcome of the Council Road Safety Program is the development of a Road Safety Strategic Plan that can be integrated into Council's Management Plan. Each year, Council will also develop an Annual Road Safety Action Plan in conjunction with the RTA and other community stakeholders such as Police.

Recognised achievements of the Council Road Safety Program to date are summarised below:

AWARDS

IPWEA 2006 WINNER Excellence in Road Safety Award
"Aboriginal Road safety and Licence Program"

IPWEA 2006 HIGHLY COMMENDED Excellence in Road Safety Award
"Nightrider Alternate Transport Program"

2006 NSW PREMIER'S PUBLIC SECTOR AWARDS
Highly Commended "Aboriginal Road Safety Projects"

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO DATE

Target Groups	Dates	Program	Participants
Youth Programs	2005-2007	Safe Driver Training	560 students from Grafton to Port Macquarie participated
	November 2007	RRISK Youth Program	490 students enrolled including 180 from Kempsey schools
	2005-2007	Graduated Licensing Scheme	110 participants
Seniors	2005-2007	Safe Scootering Seniors	628 participants
	2006-2007	Seniors Workshops	89 participants
Seat Belt Safety	2006-2007	Child Safe Restraint Fitting Days	160 participants
Aboriginal Programs	2005-2007	Aboriginal Licensing Program	480 participants
Alcohol	2005-2007	Nightrider Alternate Transport	521 clients
	2005-2007	Alcohol Awareness Program	Alcolisers rotated through 68 Liquor Accord venues
School Zone Safety	2005-2007	SAM (2 speed trailers acquired through \$30K of grants) also used on Council worksites	91 school zones targeted
	2005-2007	Bike Safety Program	71 participants
Community Awareness	2005-2007	Guest speaker for community organisations	48

In total Council has received \$95,000 in external grants for these Educational Programs.

PLANNING PROGRAMS TO DATE

Project	Action
Kempsey Shire Council Road Safety Strategic Plan 2007-2010	Road Safety Plan developed
Blackspot and other funding applications	Preparation of road funding applications
Section 94 contributions for	Prepared briefs

Project	Action
road hierarchy.	
Local Traffic Committee	Prepare all reports, Agenda, Minutes, correspondence and work orders for the Local Traffic Committee
Meetings	Aboriginal Liaison, Macleay Liquor Accord, Community Safety & Crime Prevention Committees
Bus Shelters	Secured commercial contract to supply 20 shelters which will reduce Council expenditure over the next 10 years

A draft Road Safety Strategic Plan has been developed for 2007 – 2010 and it is proposed that this plan be placed on public exhibition in the coming months.

The draft plan proposes a number of actions that would be implemented with safety and social benefits resulting for the community. Continued employment of the Road Safety Officer will allow for the implementation of the plan.

PROPOSED FUTURE PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN ROAD SAFETY STRATEGIC PLAN

Project	Action
Road Safety Audits	Commence audits of our network which will consolidate and advance Council's opportunities for additional road funding.
Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan	Update PAMP to allow future funding opportunities
Cycleway Plans	Develop Cycleway Plan to allow future funding opportunities
Section 94 contributions	Contribute to development of Sec 94 plans to allow for Section 94 charges.
Education Programs	Engage the community in various road safety programs.
Consultation	Community consultation for major works.

Funding

In the budget deliberations for 2007 / 2008, the budget for the Road Safety Officer Program was reduced by \$21,000 being Council's share of the program for the 6 months period from January to July 2008.

For grant funded projects such as the Floodplain Management Program, Regional Roads Block Grant Program and the Roads to Recovery Program Council recoups a management charge of up to 8% of the program funding. In preparing the budget for 2007 / 08, no provision has been made to recoup this charge for the Auslink Strategic Regional Program. Under this program Council will receive \$490,000 in 2007 / 08. Recouping a management charge of 8% from this program will result in a contribution of \$39,200 to General Fund. This will increase Working Funds by \$39,000.

It is proposed that Council's share of the costs to extend the Road Safety Officer Program by 6 months in the amount of \$21,000 be funded from Working Funds. Any further extension of the program can be considered

as part of the budget deliberations for 2008 / 09.

SUMMARY

The RTA is committed to the Road Safety Officer Program until 2010. The position is currently funded until the end of December 2007, and the incumbent officer is prepared to extend his tenure.

It is considered that the Council Road Safety Officer Program provides great benefit to the RTA, Kempsey Shire Council, as well as the community as a whole.

It is recommended that Council support the Council Road Safety Program for 2007 / 08 by providing additional funding to extend the program to June 2008.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental Implications*

Nil

- *Social Implications*

The social implications of this report is that many of the programs implemented have had a positive reflection on Kempsey Shire Council in addressing significant road safety concerns of the community.

- *Economic (Financial) Implications*

The financial implication of the following recommendation is that \$21,000, being Council's share of the extension of the Road Safety Program, would need to be provided from Working Funds.

- *Policy or Statutory Implications*

There are no policy or statutory implications.

- *Director's Review*

Council's participation in the Road Safety Officer Program has to date resulted in positive social outcomes for the community. An extension of the program will allow the commencement of the implementation of the Road Safety Strategic Plan with continuing social and road safety benefits.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council extend its participation in the Council Road Safety Program to June 2008 and that \$21,000 be allocated from Working Funds for this purpose.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES