



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

11th September 2007

GM3	ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY	
FILE: 483	AVB	{Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

To propose a format for community consultation for renewal of the Environmental Levy

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DESCRIPTION:

Council received approval to levy an Environmental Levy in 2003 for a five (5) year period and was invited to re-apply for renewal from the 2008 / 09 year.

A lot has been achieved through the levy and importantly Council has been able to attract considerable grants as a result of the levy being in place. I have prepared a background document to be distributed to the community ([Appendix B – Page K26](#)).

It is important that Council receives community support for any renewal as a full Special Rate Variation application has to be made to the Department of Local Government. As Council has already resolved to make application for a renewal of the Environmental Levy, I propose that the community consultation be undertaken in October / November this year well in advance of budgetary considerations.

It is also important that the community have a voice in selecting programs to be funded by the levy. As the levy is paid by every ratepayer in the Shire I propose:-

- That a public meeting be held in Kempsey to workshop the proposal.
- That the workshop be given a background to the levy through a power point presentation.
- That participants at the workshop be given the opportunity to nominate projects that could be funded by the levy.
- That invitations to attend the workshop be open to all residents, but ratepayer groups, environmental groups etc be extended an invitation in writing to attend and participate.
- That the background document be placed on the internet with a response form.
- That the proposal and the workshop be widely advertised with

residents invited to respond and participate by nominating projects.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

That the proposal and the workshop be widely advertised with residents invited to respond and participate by nominating projects.

- ***Social***

Nil

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The levy allows projects to be undertaken that are unable to be financed by General Rates and it has the ability of attracting grant funds that may not be available to us if the levy was not in place.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

- ***General Manager's Review***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That a public meeting and information campaign on the Environmental Levy be held / undertaken in October / November as outlined in the report.

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A V Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER