



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

12th June 2007

DCCS4	KEMPSEY ASSISTANCE PATROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE	ASSISTANCE PATROL	ADVISORY
	FILE: 558	MLB	{ Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the disbandment of the Kempsey Assistance Patrol Advisory Committee.

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DESCRIPTION:

At Council's meeting of the 13th March 2007, Council resolved that the Kempsey Assistance Patrol service would cease operations as of Friday, 23rd March 2007.

Since 1995 the Kempsey Assistance Patrol has operated as a Committee of Council under the name of the Kempsey Assistance Patrol Advisory Committee. On Tuesday, 24th April 2007, a meeting of the advisory committee was held to discuss the future of this committee.

The Committee advised the following:

"Due to the fact that there is no funding received from the State Government, thus no funds being provided to run Kempsey Assistance Patrol (KAP) it was decided to close down the operation.

This was tempered with the knowledge that the State Government had asked for Expressions of Interest to run the Kempsey Assistance Patrol from other local organizations.

Having made the decision to close the operation and having ascertained that Kempsey Shire Council had ownership of the buses it was recommended that they be disposed of and funds returned to Council's working fund.

With the closure of the operation and projected sale of the buses it was decided to recommend that Kempsey Shire Council to disband the committee."

Since the Kempsey Assistance Patrol Advisory Committee meeting of the 24th April 2007, Council has received written advice regarding the ownership of the two (2) buses from NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) which administers the Community Solutions program. DoCS advised that:

"It is the intention of [the] Communities Division that assets purchased to assist with the delivery of Community Solutions projects would remain within the community.

To that end the Division supports the continued use of the buses for the Kempsey Assistance Patrol (KAP) project and the Community Bus Services. However, if this is no longer a viable option, we recommend that Council first seeks to transfer the buses to non-government organisations for use either by a similar project or for continued community use. If this action is also not viable we recommend that you refer to Council's policy on disposal of assets."

In March 2007, the NSW Attorney General's Department advertised a new tender for the operation of Aboriginal Community Patrols within the Kempsey Shire. The Attorney General's Department only received two (2) submissions into the running of the patrol service with the successful tender being awarded to the Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council.

As part of the discussions held at the last Aboriginal Liaison Committee meeting, it was indicated that the successful tenderer may approach Council to lease the buses and the current building at 46A Tozer Street, West Kempsey.

Based on the advice contained within the body of this report Council will need to make a determination if we wish to continue the current arrangements and lease the bus to the new successful operator of the patrol service or hand over the buses.

It is also recommended that the Kempsey Assistance Patrol Advisory Committee be disbanded.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

There are no environmental implications from this report.

- ***Social***

The Kempsey Assistance Patrol service provided a transport service to get children and young people at risk off the streets of Kempsey back to a safe place.

The Attorney General still supports this outcome and has announced grants up to \$65,000 per annum to run the patrol service.

As part of the sustainability of the buses Council has hired them out during to day to children and youth based organisations as an alternative transport option.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The two (2) buses are valued at approximately \$40,000.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Council's Policy on "Disposal of Assets (M11:16)" provides that assets of a commercial value should be disposed of using one of the following methods –

- *public tender*
- *public auction*
- *public expressions of interest*
- *invited quotes (specialist assets with very limited market).*

Any departure from this Policy is to be recorded.

- *Director's Review*

The recommendation is supported.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Kempsey Assistance Patrol Advisory Committee be disbanded.
2. That Council hold discussions with Kempsey Local Aboriginal Lands Council regarding the possible sale / lease of the two (2) buses formerly used for the Kempsey Assistance Patrol.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES