



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

13th February 2007

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| DSS5 | RURAL FIRE SERVICE | |
| | FILE: 441 APV | { Folio No. * } |

SUMMARY:

Reporting on a proposal to upgrade facilities at the Rural Fire Service Headquarters in North Street, West Kempsey.

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DESCRIPTION:

In a report to the Council meeting on 14th November 2006, Council was advised that a workplace inspection had been carried out of the Kempsey RFS Headquarters in North Street.

Issues were identified in the report that require addressing as part of Occupational Health & Safety requirements.

An on-site meeting was subsequently held between Council and representatives from the RFS.

A number of issues identified related to maintenance / housekeeping or minor improvements. Many of these have been rectified or arrangements have been made to address the issues within existing budgets. Other major items have been listed for consideration in future budgets.

However one area of concern was the condition of the amenities (the floor surface of existing amenities are not tiled, toilet bowls are cracked, windows require replacing, lack of suitable shower facility).

As part of the program to upgrade fire tankers, a number of trucks have recently been replaced. Tenders for the sale of five of these trucks recently closed. The total value received was \$9,590.91 excluding GST.

Council's contribution to the NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund is 13.3% of the expenditure including the purchase of new / replacement tankers. Hence Council's share from the sale of tankers would be 13.3% of the nett receipts, i.e. \$1,275.59.

The RFS have agreed to utilize their share of the proceeds from the sale of the old tankers to refurbish the toilets and have requested that Council also makes available its share from the sale. Under the Service Agreement with the RFS, Council is responsible for providing and maintaining premises to the RFS.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil.

- *Social*

Nil.

- *Economic (Financial)*

The financial implication of the following recommendation is the commitment to contribute Council's share from the sale of the old tankers i.e. \$1,275.59.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Under sections 109 and 110 of the Rural Fires Act, Council contributes and / or receives 13.3% of any expenditure / receipts under the Rural Fire Fighting Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

That an amount of \$1,275.59 be provided as Council's contribution to the refurbishment of the amenities at the Rural Fire service Headquarters at North Street, West Kempsey.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES