



**DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

13th March 2007

DCCS17 KEMPSEY ASSISTANCE PATROL (KAP)
SUPP. FILE: 558 MLB { Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the status of the Kempsey Assistance Patrol (KAP).

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DESCRIPTION:

At Council's meeting of the 14th November 2006, Council considered a report on the funding of the Kempsey Assistance Patrol until February 2007. At this meeting it was resolved:

- "2. That the KAP Service be reviewed in February 2007.*
- 3. That the Attorney General's Department be advised that unless the KAP Service is fully funded Council will be forced to cease operations due to lack of funding after 30th June 2007."*

A meeting of the Kempsey Assistance Patrol (KAP) Committee was set down for Monday, 12th March 2007 to undertake a review of this service, however due to a lack of quorum this meeting has been deferred until Friday, 16th March 2007.

Whilst the meeting did not proceed, a discussion was held regarding the status of the KAP Service.

Grant funding for operation of the patrol

Council received a grant of \$9,384 exclusive of GST in November 2006 to fund the operations of the patrol until February 2007.

This grant was historically based on the funding received previously for both a coordinator and part-time bus driver. However, due to the review undertaken in March 2006 and the subsequent changes made in the operation of this service, this funding was utilised differently resulting in not all of the funds being expended within the four (4) month grant period.

As a result, the remaining funding for this service will have to be returned to the funding body as stipulated in the contract.

At this stage, the exact amount unexpended is unknown as we are awaiting all financial accounts to be submitted, but it will be in the region of \$1,000.

Prior to receiving this grant Council had allocated \$5,900 to operate this service. This commitment has now been fully expended, so there no further funding to sustain this service.

The Attorney General's Department has indicated that they wish to sustain the future of this service in the Kempsey Shire and have therefore called for applicants to take over this service.

The new level of funding available for the operation of this service is up to \$65,000 per annum with applications closing this Friday, 16th March 2007.

The Attorney General's Department has also indicated in their communication that the successful applicant will be advised in April with the patrol due to commence operations from the 1st July 2007.

Current KAP Infrastructure

Currently the Kempsey Assistance Patrol has a number of assets attached to this function. These include:

- Two (2) twelve seater buses and
- The Headquarters located at 46A Tozer Street, West Kempsey.

KAP Buses

The KAP Buses were acquired after Council was successful in receiving grant funding under the Community Solutions Program and the cost of running these buses has been offset by hiring these out to youth and children's based organisations during the day.

At the time of writing this report it is unknown if Kempsey Shire Council will continue to operate this service, therefore preliminary discussions were held with the funding body to clarify the ownership status of the two (2) buses.

The funding body has indicated that the buses are more than likely Council property however, they are continuing to investigate this matter further and it is anticipated that we will receive a response at the end of the week.

KAP Headquarters

In 2004, the KAP Headquarters were established out of the former SES / Rescue Squad building located at 46A Tozer Street, West Kempsey.

This property is owned by Council and is currently classified as Operational Land.

The property is utilised four (4) nights a week for the operation of the Patrol. During the day, it is utilised by the U3A for the operation of their

programs and is utilised on a permanent basis for the storage of equipment for Council.

It has come to Council's attention that the community believes that should another organisation be successful in receiving the grant for the operation of the Patrol this organisation would automatically take ownership or full use of these assets.

As indicated above it is likely that Council owns these assets and it will be up to Council to determine the future use of these assets if the patrol service is to go to another organisation.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

There are no environmental implications from this report.

- ***Social***

The Social implications of this report is that the Kempsey Assistance Patrol has provided a service to remove children at risk from the streets of Kempsey back to a safe place for the past ten (10) years.

The provision of Attorney General's Dept. funding to sustain the program will continue however, the role that Council plays in facilitating this process may change.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The economic implications of this report are that currently there is no funding to sustain the patrol's operations until the 30th June 2007. If Council wishes to sustain this patrol to this date, Council will have to find another \$4700 from its existing budgets or from Working Funds.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

There are no Policy or Statutory implications from this report.

- ***Director's Review***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council determine if the Kempsey Assistance Patrol's operations will continue past this week.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES