



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2007

<b>DCCS4</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRIEND OF RED CROSS</b>
	<b>FILE: 165 (339403)    MLB    {Folio No. *}</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on an invitation extended to Kempsey Shire Council to become a Local Government Friend of Australian Red Cross.

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Since 1914, Australian Red Cross has been responding to the needs of Australians in suburbs and towns right across the country.

Through war, drought, flood and fire Red Cross volunteers have responded willingly and risen to the task with a passion and commitment that has become renowned.

Such commitment also requires partnerships for which the Kempsey Red Cross Branch has developed with Council over a number of years and now wishes to formalise this partnership by inviting Council to become a Local Government Friend of the Australian Red Cross.

Should Council choose to become a Local Government Friend of Red Cross, the Red Cross would be particularly interested in pursuing practical initiatives that would see tangible benefits for our staff and the community. Some of the initiatives that may be developed within the Kempsey Shire include:

- Partnering with Australian Red Cross to undertake local community programs in common areas of interest for example in youth programs, aged care programs or disaster management programs thereby potentially increasing the number or quality of programs available in your local community.
- Taking up opportunities for Council staff to be seconded to Red Cross for short term placements in International or Domestic Disaster Response or
- Disaster Preparedness programs. Australian Red Cross is specifically interested to utilise Environment Health Engineers and Public Health professionals in its international emergencies work. Council staff would receive training and international experience that may increase their ability to contribute locally.
- Developing closer links to communities in our region. Australia Red Cross currently have programs in humanitarian relief or community development in our immediate region including East Timor, Papua

New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Indonesia. Should Council decide to participate with Red Cross to assist the most vulnerable communities in our region, opportunities for broader relationship building through knowledge sharing and / or visits may evolve.

Other opportunities for mutual benefits arising from Kempsey Shire Council becoming a Local Government Friend of Australian Red Cross may include:

- Demonstration to local residents that Council formally recognises the important work of Red Cross in the community.
- Australian Red Cross will forward a copy of their Humanitarian Magazine to elected members and senior staff, three (3) times a year. This publication will keep Council up to date with important areas of Red Cross's work within both Australia and overseas.
- Opportunities for Council to participate in and support the Australian Red Cross calling annual appeal.
- Pathways to volunteering will be opened up for Council staff, offering opportunities for participation in Australian Red Cross Community Programs.

The commitment to projects underneath this partnership would be undertaken on project by project basis and will assist Council to have a stronger chance of receiving additional funds from both State and Federal Governments.

#### **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***There are no environmental implications from this report.***

- ***Social***

***The Social implications of this report are that the existing ties to the Australian Red Cross through the Kempsey branch will be further enhanced and strengthened through the formalisation of the existing relationship.***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

***The economic implications of this report will be on a project by project basis and would be met from each years budgets.***

- ***Policy or Statutory***

***There is no policy or statutory implications arising from this report.***

- ***Director's Review***

***The opportunity to partner with Red Cross in implementing programs within the local community could provide considerable benefits for the Macleay Valley.***

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council accept the invitation to become a "Local Government Friend of Australian Red Cross" and that Council's participation be considered on merit on a case by case basis.**

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**G B Snape**  
**DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**