



DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

13 March 2007

DSDS9	KEMPSEY SHIRE ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) STRATEGY	
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SUMMARY:

Reporting that the final Kempsey Shire Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Strategy (March 07) has been prepared for Council's adoption.

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DESCRIPTION:

The Kempsey Shire ESD Strategy has been developed by Council in consultation with a community based team, known as the ESD Committee. It has been designed to serve Council and the community as both as an educational resource and action plan to guide the Shire on its path to sustainability. The Strategy provides a means of establishing goals and achievable targets to aid in the long-term coordinated approach to effective environmental, social and economic management within the Shire. The Strategy aims to unite the management of these three spheres under the one umbrella and assist in the creation of a more sustainably thinking and practicing culture.

The final ESD Strategy was endorsed by the ESD Committee at its meeting on 22 February 2007, which recommended that the Strategy be presented to Council for adoption.

Summary of Changes to Exhibited Draft ESD Strategy

Following public exhibition a number of changes were incorporated into the final ESD Strategy, including:

- further elaboration on some proposed actions;
- further elaboration on some key issues, such as climate change, water, biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage significance;
- addition of other organisations as key stakeholders for implementation of a number of actions;
- slight adjustments to time frames.
- a section added to the 'Introduction' Chapter detailing the extent of community consultation undertaken.

Public Consultation

The development of the Kempsey Shire ESD Strategy included a comprehensive public consultation program. As the Draft Strategy was being developed by Council and the ESD Committee, working draft chapters were made available for initial community feedback, through Council's website and in hard copy format at the Customer First Centre, each of the Shire Libraries and Crescent Head Country Club. Initial feedback was received and included where appropriate into the full draft Strategy, which was endorsed by the ESD Committee in August 2006. The Strategy was subsequently reported to the November 2006 meeting of Council and endorsed for the purposes of public exhibition. The full draft Strategy placed on formal public exhibition from 28 November 2006 to 15 February 2007. A community information session was held at the Council Chambers on 13 December 2006 and an information brochure distributed with the rates notice in January 2007. The community was invited to make a submission in writing, via e-mail and through a public exhibition form also distributed with the rates notice.

A total of 201 submissions were received throughout the informal and formal exhibition period. This included 183 completed and returned community submission and survey forms, plus 18 separate written submissions from other government agencies, ratepayer groups, community organisations and individuals. ([Appendix X, part 1, part 2, part 3, part 4, part 5, part 6 – Page G121](#))

Many of the submissions that came back via the returned survey forms raised issues that had been addressed in the Draft ESD Strategy. Feedback was received from a number of government agencies, which provided extra information on their particular areas of expertise and indicated their support and intentions to assist in implementation of relevant actions. Positive feedback was received from the community, congratulating Council for undertaking a much needed Strategy. Some submissions were enquiries or complaints about general issues, such as road maintenance and therefore not relevant to the ESD Strategy. These issues will be highlighted to the relevant departments within Council to respond to.

A summary of the 201 submissions is provided in Table A below.

A similar summary document was tabled for discussion at the February 2007 meeting of the ESD Committee. The ESD Committee assessed the comments and the Strategy was revised to include and / or address many of the comments provided by the community and government agencies. It was considered that some comments were outside the scope of ESD Strategy and as such could not be included, while other comments had already been addressed in the Draft Strategy. The ESD Committee subsequently voted to endorse the revised ESD Strategy with associated amendments at the February 2007 Committee meeting.

Community Survey

A community survey was also undertaken as part of the consultation process. The survey asked the community to rank in order of priority, the themes addressed under each of the three core sectors – environment, society and economy

The results of the survey indicate that the majority of the community recognised 'Water' as the number 1 environmental priority, with 'Land' consistently rated as number 2 priority.

'Biodiversity' and 'Atmosphere' were rated as lower environmental priorities. 'Health Safety and Well-being' was rated as the number 1 social priority, with 'Social Infrastructure' rated as number 2.

'Open, Space Recreation and Sport' and 'Culture and Heritage' were rated by the majority of the community as number 3 and 4 social priorities respectively. 'Employment, Income & Training' was rated as the number 1 economic priority, with 'Business & Industry' rated at number 2.

'Development' was rated by the majority of respondents as the lowest economic priority.

The information obtained from the community survey provides important baseline information, documenting priority ESD issues for Council to focus resources on over the coming years as the ESD Strategy is implemented. Follow-up surveys may be required to re-assess the on-going perceptions of the community in regards to priority areas for management.

Summary of Public Submissions & Responses

The following table provides a summary of the community feedback received from the time the draft chapters went on display (from May to November 2006) through to the end of the formal public exhibition period, which ended on 15 February 2007. The table has been divided into 4 sections, displaying a summary of the general issues/comments raised, plus particular issues or comments regarding the 3 core sectors of the Strategy – Environment, Society and Economy. A response to each of the issues is also included.

Table A – Summary of Issues and Response to Community Feedback

Issues/Comments	Response
General Comments	
Need to include an acknowledgement of some limit to future development in the Strategy.	The ESD Strategy is not the appropriate mechanism for considering future development limits. Strategic planning investigations are included as key actions under the Strategy, from which the capacity of the Shire's towns and villages will be determined having regard to a range of factors, including servicing capacity and environmental impacts.
Need to include residents in the initial stages of key planning documents, e.g. Residential Land Release Strategy, SWR Structure Plan.	'Community' has now been included in the responsibility column for all planning projects listed in the ESD Strategy. Currently Council is preparing a separate Strategy that will provide for greater community involvement in the initial stages of preparing key

	planning documents.
Over use of the disclaimer "Time frames subject to resources and budgetary constraints" on every goals, objective and action.	The purpose of the note at the bottom of each table containing goals, objectives and actions was to highlight that timeframes were set as a goal for Council and the community to work towards. Council's capacity to fund identified actions will determine Council's ability to meet these timeframes.
There are too many definitions of 'Sustainable Development' and that it is a contradiction of terms.	The ESD Strategy uses the definitions provided by international and national Government bodies. It was not within the scope of the ESD Strategy to debate the definition of sustainable development.
There might be an 'over-commitment' by Council to undertake all the recommended actions.	Council has reviewed the proposed actions and aligned them with the long-term budget. The majority of actions are proposed to be funded, with the exception of a few strategic planning projects, which have been highlighted to Council. Additional funding will be required to be sought for these projects.
Concerns raised over the effectiveness of the Sustainability Reporting Procedure. Appears to be entirely in-house and subjective at best.	The Sustainability Reporting Procedure is based on triple bottom line principles that address environmental, social and economic factors in decision making. The ESD Strategy proposes the Sustainability Reporting Procedure be reviewed and staff trained on its use to increase its effectiveness within Council.
The actual legal requirement on Council has not been described in the ESD Strategy.	The main to pieces of legislation driving ESD in NSW are the Local Government Act 1993 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) as described under the subheading <i>Legislation</i> in the <i>Introduction</i> Chapter of the ESD Strategy
There are 2 more principles of ESD listed in the Strategy than that referred to in the EP&A Act 1979.	The Strategy has been amended to clearly list the 4 key principles of ESD as referred to in the EP&A Act 1979. However, the Strategy also provides insight into newer ideas that are now considered an important part of ESD in the relevant literature.
Congratulations on Council's adoption of ESD Principles and for the development of the ESD Strategy.	Noted.
Principle no.2 from Council's ESD	The ESD Policy has previously been

<p>Policy needs to be changed from: 'If there is the potential....' To ' If there is a realistic potential...'. This would help prevent the misuse of the 'Precautionary Principle' to oppose activities due to a totally unrealistic assessment of potential risks.</p>	<p>adopted by Council as a prelude to the development of the ESD Strategy. The full definition of the precautionary principle as stated in the EP&A Regulation 2000 is given in the Strategy.</p>
<p>The Strategy and Council should focus on maintaining and protecting the undeveloped nature of the Shire.</p>	<p>The Strategy is based on triple bottom line principles, which values environmental, social and economic priorities equally. Although a number of the actions within the Strategy will result in environmentally sensitive land being protected from development, other actions will promote development in less sensitive areas.</p>
<p>Conducting a survey is a democratic and diplomatic process, but not convinced that the general public is sufficiently knowledgeable on such an important issue to be able to contribute to Council's Strategy on ESD. Would like to see input from those people that are sufficiently qualified and unbiased.</p>	<p>The survey was designed to increase the level of feedback from the local community as ultimately the community needs to be informed and became part of the process if the ESD Strategy is to be successful. The feedback process also saw feedback from the Department of Natural Resources and Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority which provided valuable input from their areas of expertise.</p>
<p>Disregard for ESD principles by Councillors in considering development applications. There also needs to be a more open, transparent and explicit system of public accountability in regards to assessing development applications.</p>	<p>The review of the Sustainability Reporting Procedure, plus additional training for Councillors and staff, as outlined in the ESD Strategy, will assist in the further consideration of ESD principles during the assessment of development applications.</p>
<p>Culture of some Councillors will need to be radically upgraded to enable the ESD Strategy to be implemented.</p>	<p>A number of actions in the <i>Core Values & Organisational Culture</i> section of the ESD Strategy propose to undertake sustainability education and training for Councillors and staff members to increase their level of awareness and appreciation for ESD.</p>
<p>ESD document is a very good idea. It must drive all other Council activities.</p>	<p>ESD Strategy was designed to feed into Council's annual management plan so that required resources could be directed towards priority projects identified in the Strategy.</p>
<p>Concerns raised that there may be a section of the local community opposed to an increase in population that will attempt to use the ESD requirements to prevent local developments. Every effort should be</p>	<p>The ESD Strategy is based on triple bottom line principles, which weights environmental, social and economic considerations equally.</p>

<p>made to ensure the ESD process and strategy remains focused on all three areas (environment, social, economy).</p>	
<p>The ESD Strategy should indicate a commitment to upholding the Macleay Shire as a 'Nuclear Free Zone'. The construction of any nuclear power plant, the processing or waste management of any nuclear material in the Shire should be opposed.</p>	<p>The ESD Strategy is not the appropriate mechanism for a statement on the issue. This should be a decision of Council.</p>
<p>Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) support the development of the ESD Strategy and have indicated their intentions to assist with the implementation of nominated actions.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>KSC should investigate the possibility of gaining assistance from Douglas Shire's (QLD) Mayor Mike Berwick. Mike is a very helpful and interesting speaker on the natural environment and sustainability issues.</p>	<p>Noted. Mr Berwick could potentially be a key-note speaker, forming part of the Councillor and Staff training exercises on sustainability.</p>
<p>Many of the actions are <u>not</u> proposed to be funded by the environmental levy. This needs to be looked into as a matter of urgency.</p>	<p>Funding from the levy was made available to as many relevant projects as possible. Many of the other actions are funded through existing budgets, while some will require funding to be sought.</p>
<p>A number of Goals, objectives and actions within the ESD Strategy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Bushfire Management Plan • Planning to foster a vibrant, secure and inclusive culture in which equality, individual creativity, understanding, respect and diversity flourish; • Provision of community halls and meeting places; <p>should be included in the LEP and not the ESD Strategy.</p>	<p>These goals, objectives and actions were included in the ESD Strategy as they are relevant to the environmental and social sectors of ESD.</p>
<p>Structure of the ESD Strategy needs reviewing, particularly the Chapter referring to 'environmental' sustainability. This Chapter should be replaced with three separate chapters such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chapter which overviews, 	<p>Structure of the document was based on triple bottom line principles and as such was set up to discuss the state of environment, society and economy and proposed actions to effectively manage these three core sectors of ESD.</p>

<p>defines and discusses the Kempsey 'environment' in the broader, generic, plain English sense.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A separate chapter which deals with the first seven words of the UN quote, namely "...using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources", including as adequate assessment of the range and natural of ALL the community's resources (including mineral, energy and extractive resources). • A chapter which deals with 'ecological processes' (UN definition) or ecological impacts (TBL), broadly following a similar format to that subsequently used for social and economic impacts. 	
<p>The section outlining the organisational goals of Kempsey Council is rather lengthy and is not considered critical in a Shire wide Strategy, though Council may rightly wish to take all available opportunities to highlight these values.</p>	<p>The section on values and organisational culture aims to foster a culture that understands and embraces sustainability. Fostering this change in Council's values and culture will provide Council with the strategic direction and commitment for achieving sustainability within the organisation itself and thus greatly enhance the successful implementation of broader range of actions at the community level.</p>
<p>Environment Comments</p>	
<p>'Development' should be included among the 'significant land degradation issues' to highlight and acknowledge the high impact trade off in deciding to convert an amount of natural environment to developed land.</p>	<p>The Strategy will result in environmentally sensitive land being protected from development. Other actions will promote development in less sensitive areas.</p>
<p>Objective 1.2 in the Land section could be strengthened to include an action to clearly specify that rezoning and development assessment procedures will have consideration to impacts to key natural resources and their values and aim to avoid reduce potential for land use conflicts in rural areas.</p>	<p>These issues will be addressed in the review of a number of Strategic Planning projects, outlined in Objective 1.1 of the <i>Land</i> section of the Strategy.</p>
<p>Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) has developed a Catchment Action Plan (CAP), which outlines a number of management targets, which are</p>	<p>Noted and revised Strategy amended to acknowledge this fact and show links.</p>

<p>complimentary to many of the Objectives proposed in the Environmental Sustainability Chapter of the ESD Strategy. Acknowledgement of this fact and provision of links between each document within the ESD Strategy would be welcomed.</p>	
<p>River bank and bed erosion, as well as gully erosion, could be added as other common forms of land degradation.</p>	<p>Noted and added to revised Strategy.</p>
<p>Macleay Landcare Network should be added to the responsibility column under actions 2.2.1 to 2.2.5 in the <i>Land</i> section and actions 1.2.1 and 3.2.5 in the <i>Water</i> section of the ESD Strategy.</p>	<p>Noted and added to revised Strategy.</p>
<p>RLPB should be added to the responsibility column under action 2.2.1 in the <i>Land</i> section.</p>	<p>Noted and added to revised Strategy.</p>
<p>Wetland Care Australia to action 1.2.1 in the <i>Water</i> section of the Strategy.</p>	<p>Noted and added to revised Strategy.</p>
<p>DPI (Fisheries) should be added as a stakeholder for actions under Objective 2.3 – ASS Remediation and DPI (Agriculture) as a stakeholder for action 2.6.2 – Weed Control, in the Land section of the Strategy.</p>	<p>Noted and added to revised Strategy.</p>
<p>DEC should be added as a stakeholder for action 2.6.1 in relation to pesticide use and management.</p>	<p>Noted and added to revised Strategy.</p>
<p>The discussion on water needs to refer to the importance of water quality and quantity for ecosystem health e.g. management of water quality and quantity is needed to ensure a sustainable supply for productive and recreational purposes while sustaining aquatic ecosystems. Therefore a whole of catchment approach is required to achieve this outcome.</p>	<p>A paragraph has been added to the discussion in the <i>Water</i> section acknowledging these issues.</p>
<p>The issue of riparian zone or riverine corridor management should be addressed in the water section also. This would emphasise the importance of the condition of the riparian zone and of the bed and banks of rivers and creeks in the overall health of the river ecosystem as well as the quality and quantity of</p>	<p>A paragraph has been added to the discussion in the <i>Water</i> section highlighting the importance and management of riparian zones.</p>

water.	
The Strategy should include an action to support riparian restoration projects in some way, in conjunction with NRCMA, DPI & DNR.	An action has been added to Objective 1.2 in the <i>Water</i> section proposing to support and encourage riparian restoration projects throughout the Shire.
NRCMA have set priorities for riverine project investment which may assist in achieving actions 3.2.3 to 3.2.5 in relation to creek and river restoration works	Noted.
NRCMA has recently prepared a draft Pest Animal Strategy that will be forwarded to all local governments in early 2007 for input. A draft Weed Strategy has also been prepared with some input already from local government. It is expected that the NRCMA will be looking to local government and other organisations to work together to carry out actions identified within both these strategies.	Noted.
An omission in the <i>Biodiversity</i> section seems to be actions covering the significant Council assets in coastal dune and headland ecosystems such as preparation and implementation of coastal and headland management plans. This could possibly sit under the Objective 1.2.	Noted. Management Plans for coastal and headland areas could potentially be addressed in the preparation of a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
It is recommended that reference be made to aquatic biodiversity (i.e. fish and invertebrates of habitats such as rivers, estuaries, mangroves and saltmarsh in the <i>Biodiversity</i> section of the Strategy.	Noted and added to revised Strategy.
A number of studies that may assist with achieving Objective 1.2 within the <i>Biodiversity</i> section include DEC – Key Habitats and Corridors Project; DEC Biodiversity Forecasting Tool. RLPB have also conducted some flora and fauna surveys within the Shire.	Noted.
Wetland Care Australia have been carrying out work over last 2 years identifying and classifying wetlands and implementing on-ground restoration works with landholders, which may assist in achieving Objective 1.4 in the <i>Biodiversity</i> section of the Strategy.	Noted.
Nature Conservation Council and	Noted.

<p>World Wide Fund for Nature have been running Bushfire Hotspot Programs and workshops for landholders throughout 2006, which may assist in achieving Objective 1.5 in the <i>Biodiversity</i> section of the Strategy.</p>	
<p>Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee, of which KSC is member, have done a lot of work already in this area and possibly have already prepared a strategy, which may assist in achieving Objective 2.1 in the <i>Biodiversity</i> section of the Strategy.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The ESD Strategy lacks depth in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The geology of Kempsey Shire Council • The physical environment (soils, water, climate, landscapes) and its implications for urban, industrial & infrastructure development. • Mention of mineral energy and extractive resources in discussing land resources. 	<p>The ESD Strategy provides a summary of the geology, soils, landscapes and water. Detailed discussion of these components of the physical environment can be found in the 2004 Comprehensive State of Environment Report, as outlined in the ESD Strategy.</p> <p>A summary paragraph on the Shire's climate has been added to the discussion in the <i>Atmosphere</i> section in the revised Strategy.</p> <p>A paragraph on mineral resources and extractive industries has been added to the <i>Land</i> section of the ESD Strategy.</p> <p>Energy is discussed in the <i>Atmosphere and Development</i> sections of the ESD Strategy.</p>
<p>Resource issues are inadequately discussed. The ESD Strategy needs to include an audit of the community's resources, including energy, minerals and other extractive resources.</p>	<p>Noted. Resources, including mineral and other extractive resources are now discussed in the <i>Land</i> section of the Strategy, however, greater understanding and assessment of the extent of resources are required.</p>
<p>The <i>Atmosphere</i> section of the ESD Strategy lists the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions and includes forestry. DPI have indicated that studies undertaken on emissions from forests on public land where forestry alters the age structure of the forest have shown a net benefit to the environment through sequestration of carbon by the younger trees.</p>	<p>Noted and revised Strategy amended.</p>
<p>DPI (ForestsNSW) undertakes a considerable amount of survey work in relation to flora and fauna on</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>public land as part of management of timber harvesting activities. DPI (ForestsNSW) Central Region would be able to make in-house expertise available in regards to State Forest (surveys and intellectual property) for a service fee if required in development of a Biodiversity Action Strategy or Koloa Plan of Management.</p>	
<p>The development of structure plan for the entire Shire is required to protect and conserve the natural environment for future generations.</p>	<p>The ESD strategy proposes to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, which will identify significant areas of habitat for protection or rehabilitation.</p>
<p>Action 1.1.1c – ‘Review of South West Rocks Structure Plan’ has already been undertaken by Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2002 and this review did include ESD principles. What is needed for Council to implement the review and adopt the plan so that development happens in a controlled manner, not the ad hoc way that this Council currently does it?</p>	<p>Implementation of the South West Rocks Structure Plan is on-going and budgeted for in the Strategic Planning Program.</p>
<p>Council should undertake an energy audit on all businesses, including Council’s own procedures, and Council adopt best practice energy efficiency design and operation for their buildings.</p>	<p>Actions 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, under the Development section of the Strategy refer to the development of an energy and water saving action plan. Preparation of this plan will require an energy audit of Councils own operations and adoption of best practice energy efficiency design and operation.</p>
<p>Action 2.4.4, under the <i>Land</i> section of the ESD Strategy, should be expanded to include sediment and erosion training for building professionals such as architects and engineers so that they too are made aware of Councils intentions.</p>	<p>Noted and amended in revised ESD Strategy.</p>
<p>Residents should be encouraged to dispose of organic waste (such as vegetable peelings etc), on site worm farms or compost enclosures.</p>	<p>Will form part of the various actions in the ESD Strategy pertaining to community education.</p>
<p>Action 1.2.1 – Development of an odour Complain register is supported in principle, though it should be expanded to include all complaints received by Council, including chemical use, noise, air quality, farm operations etc.</p>	<p>Noted. This will be investigated upon development of the Register.</p>
<p>More emphasis should be made on climate change and the challenges</p>	<p>Global warming and climate change are discussed in detail in the</p>

<p>we face in the future, particularly the possibility of reduced rainfall, inundation, bushfires, food accessibility and disease in the Macleay Catchment and how Council will manage this situation.</p>	<p><i>Atmosphere</i> section of the ESD Strategy. A further paragraph has been added in the revised ESD Strategy, which outlines the key issues raised in Draft Working Group 1 Summary for Policymakers, the first of four parts of the Fourth Assessment Report released in February this year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The revised Strategy now also includes an action in the <i>Health, Safety & Well-being</i> section, in relation to risk management that recommends Council prepare a Climate Change Risk Management and Adaptation Strategy for the Shire.</p>
<p>Greater consideration should be given to attracting a renewable energy industry and improving public transport. Emphasis should also be placed on energy efficient housing design to decrease energy consumption and greenhouse gases emissions.</p>	<p>Action 2.1.3 in the <i>Atmosphere</i> section of the revised ESD Strategy, referring to the preparation of a Shire wide plan for reducing greenhouse gases emissions has been expanded to draw particular attention to; improving energy efficiency; establishing a renewable energy industry in the Shire; encouraging and providing incentives where possible for the installation of solar hot water systems; and community education.</p>
<p>Support for the need of a Koala Study and Koala Plan of Management, as recommended in the Strategy.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Concerns raised over strategies pertaining to 'New Development' within Saltwater Creek and Lagoon Catchment prior to any re-zoning, as outlined in Appendix En-3 (Stormwater Management)</p>	<p>Strategies, including stormwater quality management, for Saltwater Catchment had to consider the possibility of future rezoning of land within this Catchment as a proportion of this land was zoned 1(D) Rural (investigation).</p>
<p>Comment in relation to action 2.1.4 under Goal 2 of the <i>Water Section</i> in relation to demand management plan. There are things to be done within 1 year, which rely on others taking 2 years.</p>	<p>Timeframes are consistent with those outlined in Macleay Water's Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy and Business Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage Services.</p>
<p>Killick Creek and Saltwater Creek Estuary Management Plans are high priority. However they should not be slowed down by any attempts to get matching funding to implement actions.</p>	<p>Matching funding is required to implement recommended actions in both Estuary Management Plans.</p>

<p>Concerned about the current state of Killick Creek, particularly issues of siltation, stagnant water and lack of marine life. Would like to see these problems addressed for environmental, social and economic reasons.</p>	<p>Obtaining funding for and implementation of the recommended strategies proposed in the Killick Creek Estuary Management Plan is a high priority of this Strategy and Council.</p>
<p>Drinking water and effluent management should be addressed in the Water Section not under Social Infrastructure.</p>	<p>Drinking water supply and effluent management is considered a key social infrastructure service for the community, so that is why it is addressed under the <i>Social Infrastructure</i> section</p>
<p>No fluoride to be added to water supplies. Adverse affects on health and environment noted in several outstanding scientific reports.</p>	<p>The ESD Strategy is not the appropriate mechanism for a statement on the issue. This will be a decision of Council.</p>
<p>Solid fuel stoves and heaters have been treated unfairly because modern slow combustion types are not a pollution problem but rather their use should insist on efficiency. Suggested Council could implement an energy efficient design service.</p>	<p>The use of solid fuel stoves under certain atmospheric conditions, particularly those associated with low level inversions over Kempsey throughout winter, do cause an air pollution problem. The action pertaining to discouraging their use has been amended to ensure efficiency of new heaters in the revised Strategy.</p>
<p>Strategy does not address loss of connectivity between forests and does not discuss any action proposed to address this problem. Planning needs to put clear limits on all native vegetation areas and buffer zones around them and no further changes to zoning should be allowed to increase density in rural areas, including eco-tourism.</p>	<p>A paragraph addressing the vegetation corridors and connectivity has been added in the discussion within the <i>Biodiversity</i> section of the Strategy. Protection of significant areas of vegetation (including corridors) and the placement of buffer zones would be an expected outcome of both the Koala Plan of Management and Biodiversity Conservation Strategy as proposed in the Strategy.</p>
<p>DNR support the action relating to the revision of the LEP, in particular the methodology of identifying land constraints and the incorporation of ESD principles into activities of Council.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Further mention of the importance of groundwater and the role it plays in sustaining water dependent ecosystems, recharging surface water flows, managing acid sulfate soils and provision of water supply for current and future generations, needs to be acknowledged in the ESD Strategy.</p>	<p>A paragraph outlining the role groundwater plays in the entire water cycle has been added in the discussion in the <i>Water</i> section of the ESD Strategy. Action 2.1.1 under Goal 2 and Goal 3 in the Water section have also been amended to include groundwater.</p>

<p>The relevant legislation pertaining to native vegetation is correctly named the Native Vegetation Act (2003), not the Native Vegetation Conservation Act (2003).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>DNR welcomes Councils commitment to legislation and principles contained within the Native Vegetation Act (2003)</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>More emphasis should be placed on pricing and installation of water tanks of adequate capacity (22,000-36,000 Litres). Installation of rainwater tanks should be mandatory for new developments and subsidies offered for existing homes.</p>	<p>The development of a rainwater tank policy, as proposed in action 2.1.6 of the <i>Water</i> section will aim to address all of these issues.</p>
<p>No mention of capturing stormwater for re-use in housing areas or for fire fighting</p>	<p>Action 3.3.3 of the <i>Water</i> section has been amended to include identification of potential re-use options for collected stormwater.</p>
<p>Concerns raised that residents of Kempsey do not care for their environment and are not considerate of other people.</p>	<p>The Strategy proposes a number of actions to address community perception towards the environment by undertaking community awareness and education programs.</p>
<p>Surf Life Saving Australia hold a course in conjunction with a Sydney University called the Diploma in Coastal Management. Would like to undertake course to assist Council in Coastal Management but would require financial assistance.</p>	<p>Could potentially become part of the community education component of the Strategy.</p>
<p>More emphasis should be placed on the Macleay River, as everything in the Shire is reliant on the river system, including all the creeks and tributaries from the coast to the hinterland and mountains. The Macleay River should be the prime ESD concern.</p>	<p>The <i>Water</i> section of the Strategy describes in detail the Macleay River system, including its links to adjoining creeks, swamps, wetlands, coasts and groundwater. The implementation of recommended actions within the Killick Creek & Saltwater Lagoon & Creek Estuary Management Plans (EMP) is high priority actions within the ESD Strategy. The development of EMPs for Korogoro Creek and the entire Macleay Estuary are underway, as are the plans to rehabilitate Gills Creek in the South Kempsey as outlined in the ESD Strategy.</p>
<p>The Biodiversity section of the Strategy states that population growth and development is resulting in 'an increase in the number of threatened flora and fauna species and endangered ecological</p>	<p>Not all habitats for threatened species and endangered ecological communities are contained solely within National Parks and Nature Reserves. Some habitats for threatened species and endangered</p>

<p>communities.' What threatened species are not protected by National Parks and Nature Reserves?</p>	<p>ecological communities remain on freehold land and in some cases this habitat may not exist in national parks, but solely on freehold land. It is therefore essential that the appropriate ecological studies are carried out before development takes place to ensure loss of important habitat does not occur in the future.</p>
<p>Encouragement of tree planting, either as plantations or individual plantings, should be included in the Strategy. This would aid in reducing erosion, improving water quality, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions and providing a sustainable supply of timber for the forestry industry.</p>	<p>Although tree planting is not covered under 1 specific action, tree planting will be addressed when developing a plan for reducing and offsetting greenhouse gases and also in the rehabilitation of riparian areas, along the river, creeks and estuaries.</p>
<p>There is no appropriate street tree policy. When large, unsuitable trees such as camphor laurel are removed, nothing else is planted to replace them. Many species of natives, such as grevilleas, bottlebrush and native frangipanis would be suitable replacements.</p>	<p>Management of street trees would be addressed in the review and update of Kempsey Town Centre Masterplan as outlined in actions 1.1.1-1.1.3 in the Business & Industry section of the ESD Strategy.</p>
<p>As part of management of noxious weeds in rural areas of the Shire, properties should be inspected and removal of noxious weeds undertaken before sale is finalised.</p>	<p>This would be considered under the development of a comprehensive weed management Strategy for the Shire as outlined in the Biodiversity section of the ESD Strategy.</p>
<p>Concerned over the impacts of increased runoff from land affected by acid sulfate soil, particularly the impact this is having on fisheries and the oyster industry. All floodgates should be removed and all creeks and waterways opening to the ocean be dredged to allow these systems to flush.</p>	<p>Actions 2.3.2 and 2.3.3 in the <i>Land</i> section of the ESD Strategy address ongoing management of acid sulfate soils, floodgates and drains. All estuaries within the Shire will be managed according to their respective management plans, once finalised as outlined in the <i>Water</i> section of the Strategy.</p>
<p>No spraying of herbicides and insecticides by Council or Contractors near waterways.</p>	<p>Some spraying of roadsides and in public reserves is required to manage noxious weeds. A review of Council's policy in relation to the use of herbicides and pesticides is a recommended action in the <i>Land</i> section of the ESD Strategy.</p>
<p>Concerns raised of the state of Saltwater Creek at South West Rocks. Suggest opening of creek entrance to flush-out creek and improve water quality.</p>	<p>Saltwater Creek & Lagoon Estuary Management Plan outlines the procedures to follow to determine when to open the entrance to the creek. The EMP also has a number of recommendations for improving water quality. Implementation of these recommendations is a high</p>

	priority of the ESD Strategy.
The edges and banks of Hat Head (Korogoro) Creek are being damaged by increasing numbers of cars and 4WD accessing these areas.	Will be addressed in the Korogoro Creek Estuary Management Plan, currently being developed as outlined in action 3.1.1 of the Water section of the Strategy.
Concerns raised about the extent of clearing of wetland/heathland in Saltwater Catchment, east of the Golf Course at South West Rocks. This is not consistent with the principles of ESD and the major goals set out in the ESD Strategy.	One of the goals of the ESD Strategy was to assist in the enforcement of the Native Vegetation Act (2003). In this case the issue was referred to Department of Natural Resources to investigate.
The ESD Strategy should indicate a commitment to develop and implement a long term, comprehensive environmental plan for the valley which recognises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water catchments; • coastal land; • riparian zones; • old growth forest; • agricultural areas; • Environmentally protected areas, e.g. wet lands; • Nature corridors to connect the above; and • Scenic protection zones. These areas should be totally void of any further development or destruction. The plan should also acknowledge areas of cultural significance.	The ESD strategy proposes to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, which will identify significant areas of habitat for protection or rehabilitation.
Actions 2.2.1 – 2.3.3 in the <i>Land</i> section of the ESD Strategy, Council nominates itself for an implementation role in all these issues which are more appropriately the responsibility of other bodies. Council should restrict its role to lobbying to shorten time frames. The other entities should pursue funding.	Council does have an implementation role to play, even if it is only assisting in these matters.
A day of community education is useless. Regular, ongoing education via the Happenings/Observer especially about wetlands and the possibilities for cleansing water etc.	Objective 1.2 of the Water section has been amended to 'establish a community education program' rather than just a 1 off education day.
Society Comments	
Concerns raised over the reality of the Goal pertaining to the promotion of 'Kempsey as the Principle town in the Shire', in light of the level of crime and anti-social behaviour that currently exists in the town.	Promoting Kempsey as the 'Principle Town' in the Shire was designed to attract development to that area and relieve development pressures in more sensitive coastal areas. A number of recommended actions are

	included (linked to the Social and Crime Prevention Plans) designed to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.
Lobby both State and Federal Governments to upgrade facilities at Kempsey Hospital.	A number of actions are outlined in the <i>Health, Safety & Well-being</i> section of the ESD Strategy, which support the upgrade of Kempsey District Hospital.
Concerned that transport is not addressed in light of social impacts. Pedestrian precincts are important for social interaction, and they need to be at the core of social and commercial activity.	Social impacts, including pedestrian access, will be addressed under the review and update of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) as proposed in the <i>Social Infrastructure</i> section of the ESD Strategy.
Encourage affordable bus services at suitable hours for workers in outlying areas.	Action 1.2.1 in the <i>Social Infrastructure</i> section of the ESD Strategy proposes to develop and public transport plan, including the provision of integrated taxi and bus services.
Community halls, places of public assembly and recreational use should not continue to be allowed within industrial zones, as this detracts from social life in the town centres and requires transport to take people to and fro.	The location of places of shared interest such as community halls and recreation facilities would be considered in long term strategic planning and urban design of an area so that they are included in the most appropriate places for the community to utilise.
Need more positive integration between the white and indigenous communities to promote a culture of mutual respect and acceptance.	Goal 1 of the Culture & Heritage section of the ESD Strategy proposes to foster a vibrant, secure and inclusive culture in which equality, individual creativity, understanding, respect and diversity flourish.
DPI (ForestsNSW) would be interested in working with Council regarding the development of rural based recreational opportunities.	Noted. DPI (ForestsNSW) has been added to the responsibility column of action 2.2.2 of the <i>Open Space, Recreation and Sport</i> section of the Strategy.
Public space and parks are very important to encourage people to meet and use these places in a positive way.	Provision of public space and parks are addressed in the <i>Open Space, Recreation & Sport</i> section of the ESD Strategy.
Kempsey should strive to be declared a tidy town. This would be a great achievement for the community and assist businesses and tourism.	Action 2.1.3 of the <i>Health, Safety & Well-being</i> section of the Strategy proposes to organise an annual 'Street Pride' competition along the lines of the 'Streets Ahead' program.
Kempsey Shire Council should concentrate its efforts on an auspicing and coordination role rather than direct service delivery for many social issues, particularly when	Council does have an implementation role to play, even if it is only assisting in these matters.

there is a multiplicity of more appropriate agencies.	
A number of other plans and strategies have already been developed and it is not clear how they fit in with the ESD e.g. the Community Safety Crime prevention plan, KSC Social Plan, Heritage plan, Macleay Valley Emergency Risk Management Strategy etc. The large number of plans operating concurrently make it difficult for the average citizen to stay involved and/or monitor outcomes	Due to the complexity of issues Council is charged with managing, specific plans for specific issues or areas of management are required. Being an overarching plan, the ESD Strategy attempted to incorporate and cross reference the relevant existing Strategies Council has developed and highlight specific action relating to sustainability, as a high priority for implementation through the ESD Strategy.
There needs to be the development of an emergency plan for disasters.	Action 3.2.1 of the Health, Safety & Well-being section of the ESD Strategy proposes a review and update of the Kempsey Shire Local Disaster Plan.
Council has a role in providing an environment which encourages social and cultural activities e.g. street theatre, community groups, volunteering, dune and land care.	A number of actions outlined under Goal 1 of the <i>Culture & Heritage</i> section of the ESD Strategy are concerned with holding community events to foster a vibrant, secure and inclusive culture.
Council has a role in lobbying and advocating for service provision to address the obvious gaps in meeting local health needs. This is particularly relevant to dental care and mental health services.	A number of actions outlined under Goal 1 of the <i>Health, Safety & Well-being</i> section of the ESD Strategy are concerned with consulting with NSW Health and lobbying for additional health care facilities in the Shire.
The Kempsey Shire Library Strategic Plan needs consultation with library staff and community.	Consultation with staff and volunteers was undertaken in the development of The Kempsey Shire Library Strategic Plan. No public consultation was undertaken.
Library facility at South West Rocks is totally inadequate in terms of space. Need extension or upgrade to service population.	The short and long term strategies of the Kempsey Shire Library Strategic Plan recommend that plans be drawn up and a new library to be built at present site at South West Rocks.
More cycle ways needed within the Shire to promote a healthy active lifestyle and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Provision of cycle ways and footpaths will be addressed in the review of the Pedestrian, Access and Mobility Plan, as recommended in action 1.1.3 in the <i>Social Infrastructure</i> section of the ESD Strategy.
Consider providing funding and forming partnerships with local sporting groups to engage young people and build community spirit,	Action 3.1.3 of the <i>Open Space, Recreation and Sport</i> section of the ESD Strategy proposes to develop working partnerships with local sporting clubs, committees and the media to promote the benefit of

	sport to the community.
No mention on smaller sewage treatment plants to allow recycled water to be returned to housing areas for toilet flushing.	Not within the scope of the ESD Strategy. However, Council will be conducting a pilot recycling program at South West Rocks.
No mention of composting toilets, which are better than expensive, water based systems connected to sewer.	Effluent management options outlined in the Strategy are directly linked to those proposed in Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy (IWCMS), which selected appropriate effluent treatment options for each region within the Shire based on triple bottom line assessment (environmental, social and economic)..
Need newer, larger and relocated sewage treatment plants ASAP.	Actions 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 in the Social Infrastructure section of the ESD Strategy refer to the Macleay Water Effluent Management Strategy which outlines the strategies for managing effluent at each of the main urban areas within the Shire, based on triple bottom line principles. New sewage treatment plants (STP) and sewerage systems are planned for Stuarts Point in 2009 and Bellbrook & Willawarrin in 2011. Further investigations work will continue into the relocation of the West Kempsey STP during 2006/07, with the site chosen and construction to begin during the 2008/09 financial year.
Bellbrook should have its own dam built, which is large enough to supply water to Willawarrin and Kempsey if needed.	Water supply and use is addressed in the Water Section of the Strategy. At this stage there are no plans for a dam to be constructed at Bellbrook, however the ESD Strategy recommends that a detailed assessment of the Shire's water resources be undertaken to determine capacity to service predicted future growth.
Open a one way/one lane access road through Kempsey Mall to deter anti-social behaviour and help encourage business back to the area.	Addressed under the review of the Kempsey Town Centre Masterplan and implementation of actions outlined in the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan, as proposed in the <i>Business & Industry</i> and <i>Health, Safety & Wellbeing</i> sections of the ESD Strategy.
Need more age care facilities and trained staff to cope with increasing ageing population in the Shire.	Increasing the provision of age care facilities is addressed in the <i>Health, Safety and Well-being</i> Section of the Strategy.

<p>Need to increase self-esteem of younger generation to help prevent social problems of anti-social behaviour and criminal offences.</p>	<p>A number of actions are included in the <i>Health, Safety & Well-being</i> section of the Strategy that is aimed at fostering community and civic pride and decreasing vandalism and theft.</p>
<p>Make use of teams of unemployed people to work on shire improvements in such a way that those involved learn useful skills.</p>	<p>Action 1.2.5 in the Employment, Income and Training section of the Strategy proposes to undertake 'work for the dole' or similar projects that support ESD principles as a first priority.</p>
<p>Economy Comments</p>	
<p>Concerns raised over the establishment of an Eco-Tourism industry in the Shire. Tourism can damage the social values people come to the Shire to enjoy, especially if it is investment driven rather than part of the local lifestyle. Is there any evidence of unmet demand for this type of industry? If Eco-tourism was to be pursued, it would require comprehensive community consultation.</p>	<p>'Community' has been added to the responsibility column of the revised Strategy. Community consultation would be sought prior to any approval for future eco-tourism facilities in the Shire.</p>
<p>A sustainable tourism industry, which values the natural environment, provides jobs and social events for the community, should be pursued.</p>	<p>Tourism, including the establishment of an Eco-tourism industry in the Shire is discussed in detail in the <i>Business & Industry</i> section of the Strategy.</p>
<p>Construction of all new tourism facilities should be based on eco-friendly design and incorporate, passive solar design for heating and cooling, solar hot water systems, solar energy collectors, rain water tanks, grey water re-use and low water native gardens.</p>	<p>The <i>Development</i> section of the ESD Strategy proposes to develop and implement energy efficient and water sensitive urban design DCP's, which will include all of these issues. Proposed eco-tourism facilities would be required to meet these standards.</p>
<p>In conjunction with National Parks and Wildlife, Council should create an 'eco-tourism guide' that allows people to visit in a non-harmful way.</p>	<p>Action 3.1.6 has been added to the Business and Industry section that proposes to investigation options for producing an eco-tourism guide, in partnership with DEC that outlines eco-friendly practices that minimise the impact visitors have on the Shire's natural environments.</p>
<p>Cultural/Heritage tourism is seriously underdeveloped. Suggest Council support the Dunghutti community's attempt to build an 'excursion camp' / 'cultural camp' on Aboriginal land along Point Plomer Rd to promote Aboriginal art and artefacts, dancing, story telling and bush-tucker foods.</p>	<p>Action 2.2.4 in the Culture and Heritage section of the revised ESD Strategy has been amended to support the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre, based <u>in the Shire</u> (rather than just Kempsey as previously indicated) to promote traditional Aboriginal culture and the</p>

	sale of traditional Aboriginal arts and crafts.
A Heritage Precinct Plan should be developed for South West Rocks, West Kempsey, Central Kempsey, Frederickton and Crescent Head.	Completion, adoption and implementation of the Community Based Heritage Study are recommended actions of the ESD Strategy. Development of a Heritage Development Control Plans (DCPs) for certain areas of the Shire will be considered.
Renewable energy should be supported, and the promotion of solar cells to provide electricity back into the grid from Council buildings would be a good start.	The establishment of a renewable energy industry in the Shire is addressed in the <i>Business & Industry</i> section of the ESD Strategy. Specific actions to reduce energy consumption, such as solar cells would be investigated as part of plan for reducing greenhouse gases as outlined in the <i>Atmosphere</i> section of the ESD Strategy.
Concerns over the action pertaining to the use of wood waste as a complementary fuel source for co-generation of electricity. It is not sustainable over the longer term.	Wood waste is a potential complementary power source for cogeneration of electricity and should be considered where appropriate as suggested in the ESD Strategy.
DPI (ForestsNSW) would be very interested to discuss with Council possible use of wood waste as a complimentary fuel source for co-generation of electricity.	Noted. DPI (ForestsNSW) has been added to the responsibility column of action 4.1.5 of the <i>Business & Industry</i> section of the Strategy.
DPI (Agriculture) supports, in principle, action 2.1.2, of the <i>Business & Industry</i> section, which proposes a rural renewal enterprise project to encourage the establishment of sustainable rural enterprise in the Shire.	Noted.
In regards to action 3.2.2, of the <i>Business & Industry</i> section, care needs to be taken in marketing all rural areas of the Shire as quiet, peaceful and un-spoilt, as rural industries occur in all rural areas and these industries can create noise, generate dust, use chemicals and legitimately change the landscape with crops and enterprises.	Noted.
A plan to survey and educate owners of businesses and industries on sustainability is commendable but it should also include incentives to introduce sustainable practices.	Noted. This will be investigated upon development of the Plan.
In the section on Economic Sustainability, there is no specific	A paragraph has been added to the Business and Industry section

mention of primary industries and the dominance of this industry in the Shire.	describing primary industries in the Shire.
Development should be limited in scale and should not be allowed to encroach on existing Wildlife corridors. These corridors and wildlife habitat need protection in the LEP.	Future development areas in the Shire will be determined by the appropriate strategic planning studies as recommended as key actions in the ESD Strategy. These studies will result in environmentally sensitive land being protected from development.
Growth and development (expansion and diversification) of industry should not encroach into rural areas.	Growth and development of industry such as agri-business and rural tourism in considered to be a positive step in diversifying the Shire's industry base.
Revitalising the Kempsey Mall as a goal should tie in with social priorities. The mall needs improvement, the car park directly alongside detracts from access to the mall for many businesses	Social priorities will form part of the review of the Kempsey Town Centre Master Plan as recommended in the <i>Business & Industry</i> section of the Strategy.
Kempsey needs to open up business and industry, re-develop old factory areas and provide more work opportunities.	The objectives and recommended actions under the <i>Business & Industry</i> section of the Strategy are focused on creating new and expanding on existing business and industry opportunities in the shire.
Core productive industry is being lost from the Kempsey Shire and unemployment rates are higher than those indicated by official statistics due to those people with part time work etc.	The <i>Business and Industry</i> section of the ESD Strategy identifies actions to help retain and expand industry operations in the Shire. Further actions are also identified in the <i>Employment, Income & Training</i> section of the Strategy, which have been designed to help create employment opportunities in the Shire.
Untidy vacant blocks and dilapidated buildings detract from the visual amenity of the town.	Action 3.1.1 in the Development section of the ESD Strategy proposes to identify ways of improving urban amenity through town beatification projects.
Prior to trying to increase number of apprenticeship places being offered, first need to determine why existing apprenticeships are not being filled despite high youth unemployment.	Action 5.1.2 under the <i>Business & Industry</i> Section of the Strategy has been amended to include discussions between local business community, employment organisations, local schools and youth to determine why existing apprenticeships are not being filled.
Developers should be made responsible for providing or contributing towards infrastructure	Action 1.3.3 of the <i>Development</i> section of the ESD Strategy proposes to prepare program for reviewing

and for carrying out environmental works.	and updating Section 94 Plans and Planning Agreements to identify full range of services and facilities that can be funded by developer contributions, including environmental restoration works.
Keep housing developments out of picturesque, fertile and productive areas. Focus of development should be in non-sensitive areas.	The review of the 'Residential Land Release Strategy' as referred to in action 1.1.1(b) in the <i>Land</i> section of the ESD Strategy will outline where the most appropriate locations are for future housing developments.
An accelerated, forward thinking masterplan for the former oil storage depot at South West Rocks is required. All sectors of the community need to be consulted on this matter.	This would be included in the review of the South West Rocks Structure Plan as outlined in the <i>Land</i> section of the ESD Strategy.
Increase the manufacturing sector of the local economy, to increase business and employment opportunities for younger generation.	Action 2.1.1 of the <i>Business and Industry</i> section of the ESD Strategy refers to a number of recommendations outlined in the Kempsey Shire Economic Development Strategy, which promote the growth of the manufacturing sector.
Consideration should be given to re-zoning of the Central Caravan Park – 63 Belgrave Street Kempsey, from 1E to 3A General Business. This would facilitate for the expansion of businesses in this area, and decrease problems associated with anti-social behaviour, facilitating sustainable development in this area of town.	The ESD Strategy is not the appropriate mechanism for this decision. Re-zoning of land is only carried out after the appropriate studies have been completed.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

The Kempsey Shire ESD Strategy provides an action plan for protecting, restoring and managing the natural environment in the Kempsey Shire. Specifically, the ESD strategy proposes to:

- ***Minimise disturbance to vegetation and conserve biodiversity.***
- ***Prevent, control and repair land degradation.***
- ***Promote and encourage the responsible use and consumption of water.***
- ***Minimise the generation of waste and implement further recycling activities.***
- ***Plan, develop and maintain safe and cost effective transportation infrastructure, including enhanced public transport options.***

- *Reduce pollution incidents to natural and man made environments.*

- *Social*

The Strategy has been prepared for Council and the broader community of the Kempsey Shire and therefore an important part of the process of developing an ESD strategy is to involve the community. A successful ESD strategy is one whereby the community embraces and takes ownership of the principles of ESD. A community that is fully aware and embraces ESD principles is likely to live more harmoniously and sustainably within the Shire. Specifically, the Draft ESD strategy proposes to:

- *Foster a vibrant, secure and inclusive culture in which equality, individual creativity, understanding, respect and diversity flourish.*
- *Promote and develop strategies that provide health services to all demographics of the shire*
- *Foster community and civic pride and return to the community a sense of safety*
- *Provide high quality education and educational facilities to all members of the community*

- *Economic (Financial)*

The Strategy aims to identify the type of business and industry the Shire wishes to attract for a sustainable future. Specifically the Draft ESD Strategy proposes to:

- *Maintain and extend a broad based economy to service local needs.*
- *Create a healthy and vibrant business environment that is competitive and encourages innovation*
- *Encourage skilful and innovative enterprise that has national and / or international significance*
- *Ensure that development takes place at a sustainable rate and is relevant to the Shire's capacity to service that development.*
- *Encourage and promote development that uses best practice energy and water saving designs.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

There are a number of legal requirements for implementing the principles of ESD. The Local Government Act (1993) and Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979) are the main pieces of legislation driving ESD.

- *General Manager's Comments*

That Council has adopted Corporate Values, the Draft ESD Strategy incorporates ten (10) values. It is recommended that the values contained within the draft ESD Strategy be amended to be consistent with the Corporate Values.

- *Director's Comments*

The draft Strategy includes actions and programs that require funding for at least five (5) years. In order for the timeframes identified in the Strategy to be met, Council needs to ensure that provision for funding is included in the ten (10) year budget which is currently being considered by Council.

Whilst the programs and actions identified in the Strategy are achievable, Council should defer final adoption of the Strategy until the ten (10) year budget has been adopted.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the ESD Strategy in principle and defer final approval pending adoption of the ten (10) year budget.

.....
R B Pitt
DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES