



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

13th March 2007

DSS10	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE
SUPP.	FILE: 811 APV {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the need to establish a suitable Emergency Operations Centre.

◆◆◆◆◆

DESCRIPTION:

Under the State Emergency & Rescue Management Act (SERM Act) 1989, Council has certain obligations relating to the management of emergencies.

The SERM Act recognises that the involvement of local government in all stages of an emergency is critical and Council's obligations include the formation of the Local Emergency Management Committee and to provide support facilities.

In the event of an emergency, an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) needs to be established by the relevant Emergency Operations Controller as a centre of communication and for the control of operations and/or co-ordination of support during the emergency.

The site currently designated as the EOC, located at the corner of North Street and River Street, West Kempsey, is unsuitable for the purpose. The designated EOC is the shed that is used by the SES for the storage of boats. The shed is unlined, has no furnishings and does not provide the resources needed in an emergency.

The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) has been investigating a number of possible sites for the establishment of an EOC. Rather than having a purpose built EOC that is used exclusively as an EOC only on the occasions that it is required, the Committee was seeking a suitable site that could be utilized for other purposes when not required as an EOC.

At the last meeting of the LEMC, Commander Mid North Coast Police, Paul Fehon, advised that a new Police Centre for Kempsey was in the planning stages. He suggested that it would be an ideal arrangement if an EOC could be incorporated and provided in the new Police Centre. The support

of Council for the inclusion of an EOC in the planning and design of the new Police Centre was requested.

Whilst the establishment of an EOC at the new Police Centre is seen as the preferred long-term option, a suitable site needs to be established in the interim. The committee has recommended the establishment of the primary EOC at Council's Training Room at the Thompson Street Depot. The training room would continue to be used for Council's training needs and would only need to be used as an EOC on an infrequent basis when required during major emergencies.

The floor level of the training room is at the same level as the current 1:100 year flood level for this area. As a consequence, this room may not be suitable as an EOC in a very large / extreme flood. In these circumstances it is proposed that the training room of the Rural Fire Services in North Street be utilized as the secondary location for an EOC during such events.

Very little physical work would be required to utilize these two training rooms as an EOC. The main requirement would be to establish Displan lines to the centres. Other requirements would be the provision of additional furnishings (white boards, notice boards, carpet) where necessary. An application has been submitted under the Local Grants Scheme from Emergency Management Australia to enable these two sites to be set up as an EOC. As an absolute minimum, Displan lines need to be installed at Council's Training Room at an estimated cost of \$2,500 so that an operational EOC can be established now in the event that it is required in the near future. This amount would be reimbursed if the application under the Local Grants Scheme is successful. No funds are provided in the budget for Emergency Management.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

Nil

- **Social**

The establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre will ensure there is a centre provided for the control of operations and/or co-ordination of support during an emergency.

- **Economic (Financial)**

The financial implication of the recommendation is that \$2,500 would need to be provided at this time from Working Funds.

- **Policy or Statutory**

Under the State Emergency & Rescue Management Act, councils are required to provide support facilities for the Local Emergency Management Committee and the Local Emergency Operations Controller in its area.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1** That the NSW Minister for Police be requested to consider the inclusion of an Emergency Operations Centre in the proposed new Police Centre for Kempsey.
- 2** That the Training Room at Council's Thompson Street Depot be designated as the primary Emergency Operations Centre and the Training Room at the Rural Fire Services Headquarters in North Street be the secondary Emergency Operations Centre.
- 3** That an amount of \$2,500 be provided from Working Funds to enable the Displan lines to be established at the primary Emergency Operations Centre.

.....
A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES