



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

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

13<sup>th</sup> November 2007

<b>DCCS4</b>	<b>COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2008</b>		
	<b>FILE: 1046</b>	<b>GBS</b>	<b>{ Folio No. * }</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on proposals to achieve efficiencies in running the 2008 Council elections

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

In June 2007 Council was provided with indicative costing for the 2008 General Election and advised that the Government expects that all election activity would now be undertaken on a full cost recovery basis.

The indicative cost for Kempsey Shire Council in 2008 was \$134,800. This compares to approximately \$84,000 at the previous elections in 2004 – an increase of almost 60%.

The Electoral Commission has now commenced a discussion with Councils on the issue of costs and administration of the election.

The Commission is making an effort to bring the local government elections up to the same standard as that of state and federal elections. Councils had previously been responsible for payment of Returning Officers, Polling Officers, etc. and had met some of the associated expenses (such as printing equipment, stationery, etc) whereas these will now be wholly managed and directly paid by the Commission, and costs recovered from Councils.

In an effort to achieve some cost savings the Commission has mooted a proposal for one (1) Returning Officer to be appointed to cover a number of Council's with the associated cost shared based on the number of electors.

The proposal is for Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings, and Nambucca Shire to share a Returning Officer with one office located in Kempsey.

This approach should not reduce services to electors as pre-poll voting would still be available in each council area, and Polling Places would not be affected.

The size of the elections in total is comparable to the size of a State District election and less than a Federal Division.

Council was requested to indicate their agreement to this proposal by 2nd November 2007 so that costings can be prepared for the election services budget to be completed by February 2008.

I have indicated Council's support for the proposal and Council's ratification is requested.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*Nil*

- *Social*

*Nil*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*The proposal to share one (1) Returning Officer, office, and associated establishment costs should result in a saving for Council. The amount of the saving would depend upon the support from councils.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

- *Director's Review*

*The recommendation is supported.*

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council ratify the action of providing written agreement to the Electoral Commissioner's proposal for the sharing of the Returning Officer at the 2008 council elections.**

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**G B Snape**

**DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**