



DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

13th November 2007

DSDS8	STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2005 / 06 – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT
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SUMMARY:

Reporting that the Kempsey Shire Supplementary State of the Environment (SoE) Report for the 2006 / 07 reporting period has been prepared for submission to the Department of Local Government by 30th November 2007

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BACKGROUND:

The 2006 / 07 Supplementary SoE Report has been prepared as an ancillary to the 2003 / 04 Comprehensive and 2004 / 05 and 2005 / 06 Supplementary SoE Reports, for the Kempsey Shire for the period from 1st July 2006 to 30th June 2007. The aim of this Supplementary Report is to provide an update on Kempsey Shire's progress towards sustainability and the trends in environmental indicators of the core environmental sectors; the land, water, atmosphere (encompassing noise), biodiversity, human settlements (encompassing waste) and aboriginal and non-aboriginal heritage. The report provides a "snapshot" of the present day environment in Kempsey Shire with that of previous years and identifies any new environmental pressures since the previous report.

The objectives of the 2006 / 07 Supplementary State of the Environment Report are summarised as follows:

- To provide a snapshot of the state of the environment of the Kempsey Shire in the year 2006 / 2007 to enable monitoring of Council and the communities performance in moving towards sustainability.
- To identify any new environmental pressures and comment on trends in environmental indicators of core the environmental sectors; the land, water, atmosphere, biodiversity, human settlements, aboriginal and non-aboriginal heritage.
- To provide usable information and data to enable more effective environmental decision-making across all departments of Council.
- To provide open and transparent accountability of Council's operations and environmental performance.

Structure of 2006 / 07 Report

As this year's report is only a supplementary report the structure will remain fundamentally the same as the previous comprehensive and supplementary SoE Reports. The report has been organised into the following Chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Towards Sustainability
- Chapter 2 – Land
- Chapter 3 – Water
- Chapter 4 – Atmosphere
- Chapter 5 – Biodiversity
- Chapter 6 – Human Settlements
- Chapter 7 – Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Heritage
- Chapter 8 – Council Environmental Performance

The report will remain structured in this fashion until the next comprehensive report is due, 12 months after the election of a new Council in the late half of 2008. At this time a thorough review of the report, including how it is structured will be undertaken so that the report is more closely linked with the recently produced Kempsey Shire ESD Strategy.

Summary of Issues and Actions

The 2006 / 07 Supplementary SoE Report provides a summary table which identifies priority issues with associated current and proposed future actions as shown [\(Appendix C – Page G19\)](#)

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

The 2006 / 07 Supplementary SoE Report provides both an update on the trends in environmental indicators and a "snapshot" of the present day environment in Kempsey Shire with that of previous years to identify any new environmental pressures since the previous report. The Report also flags high priority environmental issues that need to be addressed by Council in years to come to ensure the necessary resources can be targeted to where they are needed.

- ***Social***

The 2006 / 07 Supplementary SoE Report presents a range of social issues and indicators that can directly have an affect on the natural environment. The Report provides an update on the current trends within the social environment, enabling resources to be directed to key areas for action.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The 2006 / 07 Supplementary SoE Report provides an update on many economic factors within the Shire, including annualised growth rates, household incomes, employment and unemployment figures. Furthermore, the state of Kempsey Shire's environment has direct significant economic implications with regard to a wide range of issues including agricultural production, tourism, employment opportunities, human health and liveability.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

This Supplementary SoE Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation, taking into account the 1997 amendments to the Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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R B Pitt
DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES