



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **MAYORAL REPORT**

13<sup>th</sup> November 2007

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| <b>MM3</b> | <b>MEETING WITH MINISTER REES</b>            |
|            | <b>FILE: 184 MAYOR CC: AMB {Folio No. *}</b> |

### **SUMMARY:**

To advise Council of the outcomes of the meeting with the Minister for Water the Hon. Nathan Rees.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

The General Manager and I met with the Minister for Water Utilities in Sydney on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting was as a result of discussions I had with his Media Officer in early September regarding issues affecting Kempsey Shire.

Issues discussed were as follows:-

- *Steuart McIntyre Dam*  
The need for a filtration plant to solve the algae problems at the dam was discussed. The Minister was conversant with the problem but advised that the \$15 million required is not available. The Minister did advise that the budget for the dam was \$26 million and that only \$24.5 million had been expended. Council is at liberty to spend the remaining \$1.5 million on any water project approved by the Department.
- *Bellbrook Water*  
The problems of heavy water contamination were outlined. The Minister will lobby Minister Koperberg to have the EPA investigate the source of the contamination.
- *Section 60 Approvals*  
We advised of hold-ups for Section 60 approvals for South West Rocks Sewerage Treatment and South West Rocks Water Recycling scheme due to lack of resources. The Minister reacted negatively to the comment but will follow up the delays.
- *Dredging Killick Creek*  
The Minister will follow up the progress of Council's grant applications with Minister Koperberg.

A general comment made by the Minister was that our water usage charges were too low implying that they should be increased to finance outstanding works.

**REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*Grant moneys can be allocated to water environmental projects such as McIntyre Dam algae or Bellbrook Water Treatment Plant.*

- *Social*

*Nil*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*Council has secured \$1.5 million in unexpended grant funding for other water projects.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council confirm in writing the availability of unexpended Steuart McIntyre Dam grant funds.
2. That the Manager Macleay Water report to Council on projects the \$1.5 million grant funds could be utilised on.

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**E A Green**  
**MAYOR**