



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

3rd February 2009

DCCS11	PUBLIC LIBRARIES NEW SOUTH WALES – COUNTRY REGIONAL MEETING
	FILE: 554 KEO {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

A report on the 13 November 2008 meeting of the North-East Zone of Public Libraries New South Wales – Country (PL NSW) held in Dorrigo.

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DESCRIPTION:

Delegates to Public Libraries NSW – Country comprise of librarians and elected members, there are 2 meetings per annum in addition to the Annual General Meeting. Librarians also have two working meetings per annum. 21 delegates attended the half day meeting at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and the group was addressed by Councillor Graham Smith, Chairman of the organisation.

Council delegates to the Dorrigo meeting were Councillor Sproule and Coordinator Library Services, Gabi Brie.

Discussion included:

- A proposed merger or closer co-operation between the country and metropolitan arms of the organisation and the appointment of a paid executive officer
- Annual Conference to be held in Parkes in June 2009
- The \$9m fund announced for country libraries by the Premier in November has no details on how it is to be distributed. (As of 9th January 2009 the State Library still could not advise on the method of distribution)
- There were also extensive discussions on funding, training of library staff from isolated communities and developments in the provision of services the State Library offers to all public libraries.

The next meeting will be in May 2009 in Narrabri.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Nil

- *Social*

The library sustains its community in social, cultural and educational terms.

- *Economic (Financial)*

A recently released report commissioned by the State Library of NSW called Enriching communities: the value of public libraries in NSW found that public libraries in the state contribute an estimated \$810.2m in real terms. Thus for each dollar expended on public libraries, \$2.82 of real economic activity is generated.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

Directors Review

The Kempsey Shire Library network provides an invaluable service to our community as noted in the recent community survey. Through technology developments and continued networking the services offered by the library continue to expand and evolve.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Councillor Sproule be Council's delegate to represent Kempsey Shire Council at future meetings of Public Libraries NSW – Country in conjunction with Coordinator Library Services.

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**K E OLIVER
ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**