



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT**

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

<b>DSS12</b>	<b>SITE VISITS – FLUORIDATION INSTALLATIONS KEMPSEY SHIRE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS FILE: 240 BJM {Folio No. *}</b>
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### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on on-site meetings in relation to the fluoridation of Kempsey water supplies

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

An onsite inspection of the three water supply systems that have been gazetted for fluoridation was held with Council staff, Hunter Water Australia as Councils consultant, Mr John Irving (Department of Health) and Mr Vic James (Consultant organised by Department of Health) on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009. These onsite meetings and discussions were concluded with a meeting to finalise the way ahead. This meeting was then followed by a meeting between Mr John Irving and Mr Vic James and Councillors as resolved by Council at its meeting of 16 December 2008. This meeting was attended by the Mayor, Cr J Bowell; Cr E Green; Cr J Hayes; Cr J Sproule; Council's General Manager, Mr A Burgess; Director Shire Services, Mr B Morris; Manager Macleay Water, Mrs A Burke; and Mr J Irving and Mr Vic James representing the NSW Department of Health.

The inspections and onsite discussions were in accordance with several resolutions of Council to resolve the fluoridation installations and progress the matter. In addition, the original timeframe for installation has passed and a recent request for an extension to the permitted timeframe for the commissioning of fluoridation was limited with an extension to the time to complete the required work only granted until September 2009. In addition, a requirement for a monthly progress report to the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Committee has been imposed on Council until the fluoridation plants are commissioned.

The discussions at each site were fruitful, with general agreement reached in regard to the way ahead with the three fluoridation plants. The following is a broad outline of the actions required and the anticipated timeframe at each plant.

### **Crescent Head**

That a revised Form 1 be submitted with the plant being a Sodium Fluoride (Saturator) type plant. The proposed location of the plant was discussed and the need for access provision, modifications to pits and

other associated works were discussed. It was agreed that a case be presented for an on-site masonry type structure as opposed to a prefabricated transportable building be made based on the issues of vandalism and harsh marine, salt environment which would impact on the life of a transportable type structure.

It was agreed that an acceptable timeframe for the preparation of a Design and Construct specification would be four weeks. This specification would then be subject to the concurrence of the Department of Water and Energy (DWE) on behalf of the Department of Health (DoH). This specification would then be tendered, with a three week advertising period and an anticipated tender assessment period of two weeks. The tender assessment requires the concurrence of DWE prior to adoption by Council and subsequent award of the contract. Current indications are that the supply of a transportable type building would be in the order of 16 to 18 weeks for supply from the placement of the order. After the completion of the works the Contractor and Council need to perform commissioning tests prior to an inspection by a commissioning engineer from DWE. After acceptance by the commissioning engineer, permission to fluoridate is granted by DoH. The actual fluoridation commencement date generally being at least two weeks after the commissioning engineering sign off on the plant.

On this basis it is anticipated that if Council's consultant began work on the specification immediately, and that the turn around time from DWE and DoH was minimal that a report recommending acceptance of a tender for the Crescent Head plant could be presented to Council at its Ordinary meeting on 9 June 2009. This would result in a commencement date for fluoridation at Crescent Head, without further complications or delays, at some stage between late November 2009 and February 2010.

## **South West Rocks**

The fluoridation dosing equipment was installed at South West Rocks (SWR) as a part of the Water Treatment Plant installation. The plant installed has not been operated or commissioned at this stage and several matters need to be rectified at the plant prior to compliance with the Fluoridation Code of Practice can be achieved. During the site visit the list of non-complying issues as documented by Mr Graham Campbell were reviewed. In addition, the plant was inspected for other matters that will require attention prior to commissioning. The issue of funding for these works was discussed and it was indicated by Mr J Irving that items considered as rectification were unlikely to be funded by DoH, whereas items that were not included in the original scope of works were likely to attract a subsidy. It was agreed that DoH would confirm the funding status of each item when a consolidated list of works, with an estimate of cost was available.

It was agreed that a list of outstanding matters would be developed by Council's consultant and provided to Council by 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009, that these works would be estimated by 23 February 2009. This list of works then being forwarded to DoH for consideration and determination as to which works would attract a subsidy. It is planned that this information, with a cost estimate of the works that will attract a subsidy and the works to be funded by Council, will be presented to Council at the Ordinary Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

On the basis that Council approved the required expenditure for any works that do not attract a subsidy, it is anticipated that the fluoridation plant should be due for commissioning during August 2009.

## **Kempsey / Lower Macleay**

The proposed site at Steuart McIntyre Dam was inspected. It was agreed that stand-by pumps would not attract a subsidy and that the plant would be specified without such pumps. The proposed sequence of events for this site is similar to that of Crescent Head, except that the plant will be a Sodium Silicate Fluoride plant and that a masonry type building would be constructed on site to house the equipment. It was agreed that the preparation of a Design and Construct specification would take five weeks and could be developed concurrently with the documentation for Crescent Head. It is anticipated that if the preparation of the specification was to commence immediately that this plant could be at commissioning stage by March 2010 at the earliest.

## **WAY AHEAD**

The way ahead was discussed at the meeting with Councillors after the on-site meetings. It was indicated at this meeting that works should not progress on the Crescent Head or Kempsey / Lower Macleay plants, including preparation of specifications until after the SWR plant and the issue of Least Capital Cost is addressed, unless Council resolve to progress works at these plants. Clearly the current approved extension to commission the fluoridation plants by September 2009 can not be adhered to, and any further details will only delay the completion of work at Crescent Head and Kempsey / Lower Macleay water supply schemes.

It is subsequently suggested that Council should proceed with the preparatory work and progress the preparation of the Design and Construct specification for Crescent Head and Kempsey / Lower Macleay. In addition, that once the tender assessments concurrence has been obtained for each plant, that a further extension of time to fluoridate be submitted to the DoH.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The commissioning of the fluoridation plants requires extensive public consultation. This public consultation needs to commence at least three months prior to the commencement of fluoridation, with the actual date of commencement notified to all water supply customers in advance. This will need to be progressive for each installation.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*Nil*

- *Social*

*The public consultation stage is likely to raise objections from some members of the community.*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*Council will be responsible for on-going operation and maintenance expenditure. Council may also be responsible for some works at SWR, although this will be reported to Council for approval prior to commencement of the works.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*The requirement for Council to fluoridate the Water Supply Schemes at Crescent Head, SWR and Kempsey / Lower Macleay has been gazetted and as such Kempsey Shire Council must progress this work.*

- *Director's Review*

*It is important that the required works are progressed in a timely manner following the on-site meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council approve the preparation of Design and Construct specifications for the required works to fluoridate the Water Supply Schemes at Crescent Head and Kempsey / Lower Macleay.
2. That Council notify the Department of Health that a further extension to the time to fluoridate the water supply schemes at Crescent Head and Kempsey / Lower Macleay will be required, and that a formal request will be submitted after concurrence of the tender assessment is obtained from DWE for each plant.
3. That Council receive further reports, as required, prior to the engagement of a contractor or contractors to progress the works associated with fluoridation installation or rectification works.

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**Bruce Morris**  
**DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**