



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

3rd February 2009

GM7

COMMUNITY ADDRESSING COUNCIL

FILE: 395

AVB (NRN)

{ Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

To identify the benefits of allowing the public to address Council on issues not on the Agenda.

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DESCRIPTION:

Council on 16th December 2008 resolved:

1. That Council investigate the possibility of introducing, to Council meeting procedures, a segment where community members may address Council on matters of community concern not included in the agenda.
2. That a report be brought back to Council on the feasibility of such a proposal and the structure such a segment should take.

The advantages of such a proposal are that it allows members of the public to bring to the attention of Councillors, issues or problems being experienced in the local area. It also provides an avenue for residents views to be made public.

On the other hand, providing this opportunity at a Council meeting could significantly extend the Council meeting times, issues raised can not be actioned through a resolution of Council as notice of the business has not been given, and in fact if residents waited to alert Council of issues through addressing Council, implementing actions to solve the problems or to support a proposal would be delayed by the monthly meeting cycle.

Currently residents can contact Council, and discuss and have issues attended to, or they can contact Councillors, or if they feel it is necessary, write a letter to the editor.

If Council was to allow residents to address a Council meeting on any matter, steps would need to be introduced to ensure that privacy and defamation laws were maintained. All requests should include written details of the matter the subject of the address, including any material

or electronic presentation. This should be submitted by the Friday prior to the Council meeting.

Matters that should be excluded include:

- . Matters that will or are expected to be the subject of a future report to Council.
- . Matters that relate to complaints against a member of the public, a Councillor or a staff member.
- . Matters unrelated to the Services of Council.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil

- ***Social***

Nil

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

- ***General Manager's Review***

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council not extend its public forum to allow members of the public to address Council on matters not included in the Agenda.

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A V Burgess
GENERAL MANAGER