



MAYORAL REPORT

13 October 2009

MM4

CLOSING THE GAP

FILE: 310 CC: 283 MAYOR (NRN) {Folio No. *}

SUMMARY:

Reporting on advice received in respect to the Close the Gap campaign.

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DESCRIPTION:

A letter has been received from Mr Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Social Justice Commissioner Australia Human Rights Commission [Appendix B - Page MM2](#). Literature provided has been forwarded to Acting Director Corporate and Community Services.

In February 2009 a forum was conducted at Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation. The forum was organised by Mr Mark Hewitt, Manager Australian Government Indigenous Co-ordination Centre, Coffs Harbour.

On 25 August 2009 a meeting was held with the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for Housing, Minister for the Status of Women, during the Prime Minister's Cabinet visit to Port Macquarie.

Ms Plibersek MP was representing the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Indigenous Affairs and received a deputation from Aboriginal Connections, Booroongen Djugun and Council.

A further forum is being arranged by Mr Hewitt who, it is understood, is completing a Ministerial Report in response for a grant for the preparation of a concept plan for the development of the South Kempsey area.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

N/A

- **Social**

The Council of Australian Governments has agreed to a partnership between all levels of government to work with Indigenous Australian communities to achieve the target of closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

There are significant economic benefits – employment, health, housing, education and potential reduction in crime to be realised.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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J H Howell
MAYOR