



DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

2 February 2010

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**AIRPORT FILE
FILE: 183**

KEO (NRN)

(Folio *)

SUMMARY

Reporting on the current activities associated with the Kempsey Airport.

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DESCRIPTION:

In December 2009 Council held a public forum to present options to the community that could be considered with regards to the future of the Kempsey Airport. Of the approximately 250 people gathered the majority supported the retention of the airport as an operating concern.

The forum was presented with cost scenarios, from base maintenance to those associated with a full development of the site. Each option to retain airport operations bears an additional cost for Council and the community.

Following this forum, it was determined that broader community consultation be undertaken to gauge to what level the community is prepared to support the airport operations. Community consultation as to what is acceptable in terms of ownership, size of airport strip and or development is being undertaken.

Council has commenced further community consultations with information concerning the options for the airport included in the community newsletter to be issued in February 2010. A fact sheet on the airport is has also been made available on the website.

There is no short term imperative to decide the future direction of the airport; Council will continue current operations until a determination is made following community feedback.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

Environmental

Nil

Social

Nil

Economic (Financial)

Nil

Policy or Statutory

Nil

Director's Review

As per report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council discuss with the community what are seen as the acceptable options for retaining an airstrip at Kempsey.