

## DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

14<sup>th</sup> December 2004

**DSDS8      ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
POLICY  
FILE: P9      WEW**

### SUMMARY:

Reporting that the public exhibition of the Ecologically Sustainable Development Policy has completed and the Policy presented for Councils adoption.



### Background:

This report has been prepared to present the final draft of the proposed Ecologically Sustainable Development Policy (ESD). The essence of the Policy is to define what ESD means for Kempsey Shire and to set objectives as part of undertaking a Local Agenda 21 program. It is seeking a commitment from Council to embrace the principles of ESD and to allocate the necessary resources to undertake an Agenda 21 program.

The final draft of the ESD Policy was prepared following the consideration of submissions from the public and comments received at the public consultation meeting. Feedback received during the public consultation was generally very positive and constructive with regard to the policy document.

[\(Appendix U\)](#)

Some small grammatical changes were made to the report, while one major change was the inclusion of ESD Principle number 5 - *The protection of biological diversity and to maintain or enhance the essential natural processes on which life depends*. This principle is listed in the relevant legislative documentation. The Triple Bottom Line Reporting template has also been revised and is already in use [\(Appendix V\)](#).

The next stage will be the establishment of an Agenda 21 Team. The Team should have appropriate public and Council representation from key stakeholder areas (for example: environment, agriculture, business/industry, Council, health/community and Aboriginal Community). The suggested make-up of the team is as follows:-

- Nine (9) Community representatives

- One (1) representative of the Aboriginal Community
- Two (2) Councillors
- The Director of Sustainable Development Services or his nominee

The purpose of the Group will be to assist in the setting of goals for achieving sustainability and promoting the principles of ecologically sustainable development to the wider community through education and sustainability programs. It will also need to determine a preliminary budget estimate to achieve its desired outcomes.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

### ***Environmental Implications***

***In making a commitment to the principles of ESD Council will aim to protect and enhance biological diversity and essential life processes for the benefit of future generations.***

### ***Social Implications***

***In making a commitment to ESD and undertaking a Local Agenda 21 program Council will be better able to valuate and serve the social needs of the community. Local Agenda 21 will strive to build a healthy and vibrant community whereby the community embraces and takes ownership of the principles of ESD.***

### ***Economic Implications***

***Council will need to appropriately resource the Agenda 21 program that will include, but not be limited to, providing public education and promoting the principles of ESD. In the longer term Council should expect significant cost savings from the efficiencies driven out of the Local Agenda 21 process, while realising sustainable economic development for Kempsey Shire.***

### ***General Managers or Directors Review***

\*\*\*

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- A That Council adopt the ESD Policy.**
- B That Council seek expressions of interest from members of the community wishing to join the Agenda 21 Team to comprise of:-**
- **Nine (9) Community representatives**
  - **One (1) representative of the Aboriginal Community**
  - **Two (2) Councillors**
  - **The Director of Sustainable Development Services or his nominee.**

.....  
**R B Pitt**  
**DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**