



Vincent Street
CESSNOCK 2325

26 February 2008

To All Councillors

You are hereby notified that the next Meeting of the Strategic & Community Services Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 5 March 2008, immediately following the conclusion of the Works & Services Committee Meeting, for the purpose of transacting the undermentioned business.

**B R MORTOMORE
GENERAL MANAGER**

AGENDA:

PAGE NO.

(1) APOLOGIES.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

Minutes of the Strategic & Community Services Committee
Meeting held on 20 February 2008

(3) OFFICERS' REPORTS

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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(4) QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT NO. 14/2008

SUBJECT: HUNTER REGIONAL ILLEGAL DUMPING SQUAD

Environmental Planning Manager, Mr Michael Alexander, reports:

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) has offered to partner Hunter councils in the operation of a Hunter Regional Illegal Dumping Squad (RID Squad) consisting of a group of authorized officers with Council delegated powers to detect and prevent litter and illegal dumping across all the local government areas of the participating Councils. The proposal from DECC is as follows:

Key Project Drivers:

1. *The Council has responsibilities under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, the Local Government Act 1993, the Roads Act 1993, and the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 with respect to the enforcement of waste management regulation in its local government area.*
2. *The Council has responsibility under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002 for enforcement of waste management regulation in regional parks under its care, control and management.*
3. *DECC, through the Sustainability Programs Division, carries out the functions under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 to develop, implement and/or co-ordinate programs for the prevention of litter and illegal dumping.*
4. *DECC also has responsibility under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002 with respect to the enforcement of waste management regulation on the lands under the care, control and management of DECC;*
5. *The community has expectations for council to prevent and control fire hazards and vermin infestation caused by littering and illegal dumping;*
6. *There is the potential for increased levels of illegal dumping as a consequence of rising landfill charges; and,*
7. *Council's expenditure on clean-up of illegally dumped waste and litter is expected to be significantly reduced by greater levels of compliance and deterrence actions.*

Key Environmental Outcomes:

1. *Reduce environmental degradation of sensitive bushland and urban amenity;*
2. *Reduce potential vermin infestations and fire hazards;*
3. *Improved community awareness and behaviour in the appropriate disposal of waste ; and,*
4. *Increased recovery of resources.*

REPORT:

The participation of Council in the joint venture is subject to there being at least two other Hunter Councils also participating.

The joint venture was considered by Hunter Councils General Managers Advisory Committee on 2 August 2007 and commitment in principle was provided by several Councils, namely, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens. Subsequently, several meetings have been held with officers of these Councils to develop and finalise working arrangements for the RID Squad.

The key features of the proposed Hunter RID Squad are:

1. The Hunter RID Squad is a team of authorized officers (one officer per participating Council) that provides additional resources to each Council and complements Council's existing regulatory staff in a cost effective manner;
2. Hunter RID Squad officers have a separate identity to Council's normal regulatory staff that can provide an independent, high profile illegal dumping deterrence and educational role within Council's area;
3. The Hunter RID Squad provides fast incident response from a specialized force, well-trained in all aspects of illegal dumping enforcement and at any time can respond with one officer or the whole squad;
4. With cross-council delegations, the Hunter RID Squad operates across each of the local government areas of participating Councils to provide a regional and consistent enforcement approach;
5. The strategic direction and priorities of the Hunter RID Squad is managed by a committee consisting of participating Councils, Hunter Councils and the DECC. The Management Committee makes policy decisions, approves the program and budget and monitors the operation of the RID Squad;
6. The Hunter RID Squad is administered by Hunter Councils Inc. who employs the authorized officers, manages the necessary equipment, administers the accounts and co-ordinates operations on a daily basis;
7. Funding for the joint venture is provided by:
 - a) each participating Council to the amount of \$45,000 per year;
 - b) The DECC to the amount of \$45,000 per year per participating Council; and,
 - c) Fine revenue, external income and contributions from other partner organizations;
8. The services of the Hunter RID Squad may be contracted for a fee to other Councils and agencies provided resources are available at the time;
9. The joint venture is evidenced by an Agreement that sets out the terms and conditions between the participating Councils, Hunter Councils Inc. and the DECC.
10. The joint venture is for an initial three years with an option to extend a further 12 months and may continue beyond the term until terminated in accordance with the Agreement.
11. Council's proportion in the joint venture and the total budget will be dependent on the number of councils that participate. Other revenue may consist of fines, service fees and/or contributions from other State agencies.
12. Each Council must contribute to the joint venture the actual fine revenue received by the Council that is attributable to the actions of the Hunter RID Squad. The Hunter RID Squad will operate a separate SEINS account with the Infringement Processing Bureau.
13. Recommendations to prosecute will be provided to Councils where relevant. Councils will be responsible for prosecution costs and will be entitled to any fine revenue resulting from prosecutions.

Financial Impact

The financial commitment arises from Council's contribution to the capital required to set up and operate the joint venture. Anticipated savings may be achieved from the avoided costs of council cleanup of illegally dumped material. In the event that the joint venture is terminated, Council will be entitled to any realized assets in proportion to its share in the joint venture.

Budget Year	Amount
2008-09	\$45,000
2009-10	\$45,000
2010-11	\$45,000

CONCLUSION:

The formation of a Hunter RID Squad will provide Council with an enforcement task force and resource to concentrate solely on littering and illegal dumping within its area. The DECC will partner with Hunter Councils and match Council's financial commitment to the joint venture. The proposal is based on the success of similar partnership projects in the Sydney western and southern regions.

The community will benefit from a reduction of illegally dumped waste, reduced clean-up costs and cost savings from sharing of compliance resources.

RECOMMENDATION that Council participate in a Hunter RID Squad subject to budget approval.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Meeting – 5 March 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
25 February 2008

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT NO. 15/2008

SUBJECT: CMA - COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Environmental Planning Manager, Mr Michael Alexander, reports:

BACKGROUND:

The Catchment Management Authority (CMA) through its various forms over the years has had partnership agreements with Cessnock City Council for the delivery of community support. Until 31/12/06, this role was filled by Ms Sarah Roberts. Ms Roberts left Council to take up a position with Singleton Council. Since that time Council has had a number of meetings with the CMA to determine the way forward with both the CMA & Council's interests in mind.

REPORT:

The CMA conducted a review of community support in December 2006 which coincided with the position in Cessnock becoming vacant. The CMA has confirmed that a budget of \$30,000 pa to June 2009 remains for the Cessnock LGA for the provision of community support services that will deliver against the CMA's Catchment Action Plan. A similar situation exists at neighbouring Maitland Council.

At a joint (Cessnock, Maitland & CMA) meeting on 22 January 2008, it was identified that there were a number of options on how to deliver the necessary community support. The traditional method of having individual agreements with each Council was not favoured for the fact that the budgets required to make a full time position are not readily available. The consensus from the meeting was that the CMA could combine the funding it has previously provided to each Council and add part of the CMA's Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (MER) budget to make a full time position that will be more attractive to recruit and more able to deliver the targets of the CMA's Catchment Action Plan (CAP).

The features and arrangements agreed to at the meeting are:

1. The position will be employed and report to the CMA. The position will be based at the CMA's Tocal office.
2. The position will spend three days per week on community support activities in the Maitland and Cessnock area. This will be averaged out at 1.5 days per Council area. The contribution by each Council will be in the liaison with the position. The position will spend two days per week on the CMA's MER Program.
3. The essential purpose of community support is to ensure that capacity building activities required for the implementation of the CAP are being undertaken.
4. The CMA and Councils will cross reference the CAP and Council Management Plans to identify priority areas for action. A program to complete an inventory of active groups (Landcare and other relevant NRM groups) will be carried out as a first priority and a joint meeting held to outline the role of the position and table initiatives that require capacity building services.
5. The strategic management of the position will be a collaboration between the CMA and Councils with input from stakeholders such as Landcare and other NRM groups. The CMA will have final arbitration on these activities.
6. The position will seek to attract funding for gaps in activities that may be mutually supported. These activities are to be fully costed in that it is acknowledged that CMA and Councils management plans are specific and resources are finite and committed.
7. The position will be run at cost. Any unexpended budget from the community support allocation (\$60K pa) will be used for the operation of that program.

8. The position will be managed by the CMA's Catchment Coordinator Lower Hunter (CCLH), who will assist in focussing effort to areas where the best results will be and address contentious issues that may detract from effective capacity building delivery.

CONCLUSION:

The revision of funding sources and engagement arrangements has presented an opportunity for both Council and the CMA to revise the role of Community Support Officer and the most effective way to deliver the objectives of the Catchment Action Plan for both parties.

Through continuous consultation a structure that addresses all parties' priorities and interests (detailed above) has been reached.

RECOMMENDATION that the report be received and noted.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Meeting – 5 March 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES
REPORT NO. 16/2008

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED LEASE OF UNUSED PUBLIC ROAD - CONTINUATION OF
 LANG STREET, KURRI KURRI**

Roads, Bridges & Drainage Manager, Mr John Booth, reports:

PURPOSE:

1. To inform Council of the proposed lease of a part of an unformed public road, being the continuation of Lang Street, Kurri Kurri, to the adjoining property owner (Lot 7 DP 1037092).
2. To obtain concurrence to the advertising of the proposed lease.

BACKGROUND:

The owners of Lot 7 DP 1037092 have approached Council with the view of leasing the unused road adjacent to their property. This would allow the installation of a section of fence and a lockable gate across the entrances to this unformed public road reserve. The purpose of the lease is to deter improper use of this area by motor bike riders, rubbish dumpers and other unauthorised persons. These undesirable activities cause numerous problems including dust and noise pollution to nearby houses.

INFORMATION:

The area proposed to be leased is shown on the enclosed map from Council's GIS system and an unregistered plan of subdivision supplied by the applicant. In general it is an area of unformed road reserve starting at the western boundary of the Hospital Road reserve and extending in a westerly direction for about 1.6 km. It is not being used nor is it required for road purposes. The area is surrounded by many informal tracks over adjacent private property that currently have a high frequency of mostly illegal use, including trespass, by recreational vehicles. Observations made by the applicant are that this unauthorised access may contribute to rubbish dumping, arson and soil erosion. If the area were approved for lease the lessee would be responsible for its maintenance and security.

It is envisaged that the lease application is only an interim measure to allow restriction of access to the subject unformed road reserve, and the applicant may in future make appropriate application to the relevant authorities for the road to be formally closed.

The lease payment has been assessed by Hunter Valuation Services at \$100 (One Hundred Dollars) per annum GST inclusive and documented in their report Ref : 432907 dated 5 November, 2007 (attached in the "Enclosures").

The owners of Lot 7 DP 1037092 have made a formal application for the lease of the subject area. Council as the Roads Authority for the road under the Roads Act 1993 can grant a short-term lease over unused Public Road in accordance with Sections 153 to 157 of the Act.

The process for the granting of a lease is varied depending on the lease requirements and subject to the approval process. There is no guarantee that a lease will be granted, as public submissions must be considered. Any decision to grant a lease must be made by resolution of the Council.

Any structure (including any fence) cannot be erected without the consent of the Council. Council can only grant consent if the proposed structure comprises a fence or a temporary structure of a kind that can easily be demolished or removed. Prior to erecting any fence or other structure Council's consent must be obtained. On the termination of the lease the structure must be removed.

Trees on the road (including the area of leased land) may not be interfered with, except with the written consent of Cessnock City Council.

Any gates should be erected or made so as not to interfere unnecessarily with any traffic, i.e. clear of the adjoining formed road.

The natural flow of water should not be diverted to any large extent by any means.

Council may terminate the lease at any time and for any reason.

As many of the subject and adjoining property boundaries had previously been unfenced, the owners of Lot 7 DP 1037092 conducted talks with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, local Police and Rural Fire Service to discuss methods of combating illegal entry on to the subject unused road and surrounding lands, whilst continuing to maintain legitimate usage by the RFS and other authorities. As a result of those consultations it was decided that an application for lease be made to allow fencing of the boundaries.

The applicant also addresses compliance with the NSW OH&S Act. All works on the project occurring on land adjoining the subject road area must comply with the OH&S Act. This requires that only authorised persons should have access to construction sites. As the infrastructure works on HEZ are geographically widespread, boundary fences are required to minimize the possibility of access by unauthorised persons.

INSURANCES:

Public Risk Insurance

The Lessee must effect, at their own expense, and at all times during the Term of the Lease keep current in the joint names of the Lessor (Cessnock City Council) and the Lessee, a public risk insurance policy in an amount not less than ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) or such other amount as the Lessor may from time to time require with an available capacity of that amount for any one occurrence which may arise out of:

- the use and occupation of the land by the Lessee or any other person;
- the exercise by the Lessee of its rights under the Lease;
- the Lessor's approval for any improvements or structure erected upon the land.

SUMMARY OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPROVAL BY A ROADS AUTHORITY OF THE SHORT-TERM LEASES OF UNUSED PUBLIC ROADS AS SETOUT IN THE ROADS ACT 1993

A roads authority may lease land comprising a public road (other than a Crown road) to the owner or lessee of land adjoining the public road if, in its opinion, the public is not using the road.

The roads authority may terminate a lease so granted at any time and for any reason.

Before granting a lease the roads authority must cause notice of the proposed lease:

- to be published in a local newspaper; and
- to be served on the owner of each parcel of land adjoining the length of public road concerned.

Any person may make submissions to the roads authority with respect to the proposed lease.

After considering any submissions the roads authority may grant the lease, either with or without alteration, or may refuse to grant the lease.

If the roads authority grants a lease, the roads authority must cause notice of that fact to be published in a local newspaper.

The term of a lease, together with any option to renew, must not exceed 5 years and is subject to the conditions re erection of structures given above.

PROPOSAL:

That Council approves the advertising of the proposed short-term lease of the subject unused public road as required by the Roads Act 1993.

After considering any submissions on the short-term lease, Council determines whether to grant the lease, either with or without alteration, or refuse to grant the lease.

If Council were to subsequently approve the preparation of a proposed short-term lease of unused public road the following requirements would apply:

- The proposed lease to be for a period of 3 months and continue until such time as allowed by Council development occurs on immediate adjoining lands or the maximum lease period of 5 years lapses.
- The entry to the subject road land off Hospital Road and any subsequent points of entry to be fenced at the cost of the lessee.
- The owner be responsible for the following costs:

Lease application and execution cost	\$ Cost
Plan of lease area (Registered Surveyor)	\$ Cost
Lease fee	\$ 100 per annum (GST Incl.)
Notification and Advertising	\$ Cost + \$25 per publication
Stamp Duty	\$ Cost
Insurances	\$ Cost
- Upon the approval of the proposed lease the owner to effect the necessary insurance and submit to Council for approval a copy of the certificate of the insurance policy required. This policy is not to be cancelled or amended without notice or advice of such cancellation or amendment being given to Council.

RECOMMENDATION that:

1. Council approve the advertising of the proposed short-term lease of unused public road, being about 3.5 hectares of unformed public road – continuation of Lang Street, Kurri Kurri to the adjoining property owner (Lot 7 DP 1037092) as required by the Roads Act 1993.
2. Upon consideration of any objections to the proposed short-term lease of unused public road, being about 3.5 hectares of unformed public road – continuation of Lang Street, Kurri Kurri to the adjoining property owner (Lot 7 DP 1037092) a further report be provided to Council to determine whether to grant the lease, either with or without alteration, or refuse to grant the lease.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee - 5 March 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
25 February 2008

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT NO. 17/2008

SUBJECT: WOLLOMBI BROOK CATCHMENT CRAWL - 15 NOVEMBER 2007

Sustainability Projects Officer, Ms Tricia Donnelly, reports:

The Wollombi Brook Catchment Crawl (an event involving students and teachers from local schools developing a snapshot of the condition a particular catchment including investigation of the impacts of farming, urbanisation and society on the waterway) was held on Thursday 15 November 2007 and results have recently been received.

The event was attended by 32 students and 9 teachers from 8 schools in the catchment (6 of these schools from the Cessnock LGA) and involved travelling from Ellalong Lagoon through Wollombi and out to Warkworth where the Wollombi Brook enters the Hunter River. Four sites were investigated over the course of the day with groups undertaking water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrate (water bug) surveys, site and habitat assessments, and interviews with invited guests.

The results reported from this event include 2 sets of data:

- One set collected by students on the day
- Another set of samples from the same locations analysed by Hunter Water Laboratories, Warabrook.

In general, the results from the Wollombi Brook Catchment Crawl showed that:

- pH at all sites was in accordance with the guidelines (i.e. the water was not too acidic or alkaline).
- At Warkworth (closest to the Hunter River) electrical conductivity was poor indicating a high level of salts in the water.
- Ellalong Lagoon had a poor turbidity result (i.e. the water was too cloudy for plant and animal life to receive enough sunlight)
- The dissolved oxygen saturation levels were well below the recommended lower level at all sites.
- The very sensitive (i.e. first to be affected by early pollution) mayfly nymph was located at Wollombi, Broke and Warkworth.
- Riverbank assessment ratings for all sites except Ellalong Lagoon were very good.

The main areas of concern arising from the Catchment Crawl are:

- At Ellalong Lagoon and Wollombi phosphorous and nitrate readings were above the Australian Standards trigger value. High readings may be from excessive use of fertilisers, chemicals and urban runoff which can promote algae blooms in waterways.
- Faecal coliform levels at Wollombi were too high for both primary and secondary contact recreation. Further investigation is required to determine the possible cause, which may be due to stock access or septic tank overflows.

Overall, the event was very successful, with feedback from participants suggesting that the day was not only enjoyable but provided a unique learning experience. The information gathered on this catchment (and added to the results from the Wallis-Fishery Creeks Catchment Crawl conducted in 2006) is providing an in-depth overview of Cessnock LGA waterways conditions that will assist in future management and strategy planning. A copy of the full report from the event (and a PowerPoint presentation) is available for viewing on request.

RECOMMENDATION that:

1. The information be noted.
2. Council continue to participate in these events in the LGA.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee - 5 March 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
25 February 2008

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT NO. 18/2008

SUBJECT: DRAFT MASTERPLAN FOR POKOLBIN PARK (POKOLBIN)

Facilities Officer, Mr Gerard Young, reports:

To continue the updating of Council's Masterplans, a draft Masterplan for Pokolbin Park was presented to Council at its meeting on 12 December 2007. The Masterplan specifically outlines a number of works to be completed at the site over the next 3 – 5 years via a staged approach. Works to be undertaken at the site include improvements to fencing throughout the site, demolition and relocation of existing toilets, installation of new picnic facilities and refurbishment of existing shelters, planting of advanced stock trees, formalisation of concrete pathways to link the new public toilets to a proposed large combined BBQ and picnic shelter and formalisation of the carparking area.

At the Council meeting on 12 December 2007 Council considered Acting Director Strategic and Community Services Report No. 148/2007 regarding the draft Masterplan for Pokolbin Park (Pokolbin). Approval was given to advertise the document for a period of twenty eight (28) days from 19 December 2007 to 15 January 2008. Due to this being during a holiday period the exhibition was extended to 8 February 2008. There were two (2) written submissions received during the exhibition period. The submissions as well as Council responses have been included within the Enclosure Documents.

The written submissions received were from the same adjacent land owner. The initial submission raised a number of concerns regarding proposed works within the draft Masterplan. The submission stated that the exhibition period was not sufficient (during the holiday period) and this should be extended, that a management plan and costings for the project had not been provided by Council and that the draft Masterplan should have been referred to the Pokolbin District Advisory Committee for its consideration.

A response was provided to this submission by Council and stated that the initial exhibition period had been extended by three weeks taking into consideration the holiday period, indicative costings for the project were provided to the land owner as well as a comment that the park will continue to be managed by Cessnock City Council. It was further stated that a site meeting was held with representatives from the Hunter Valley Vineyard Association late November 2007. A copy of the draft Masterplan was given to representatives of the association who indicated that they would be providing written feedback prior to the close of the exhibition period.

The second submission received from the land owner identified more specific concerns with the draft Masterplan and included issues with existing park maintenance, current service levels of garbage bins, that a new toilet block is not required, that new barbeques not be installed due to vandalism and that an alternative material for proposed fencing works be considered. The submission continued to state that the park is currently utilised for drunken parties and has become a defacto camping area and that the proposed works should not proceed until a formal management plan for the site had been completed.

Council's response to the second submission stated that:

- a review of the current maintenance of the site (near the two creek areas) has been raised with the Recreation Operations Manager;
- that Council would look to increase the service levels of the garbage bins from once to twice a week;

- that the existing toilet block is approximately 20 years old and is in poor condition when compared with other toilet blocks in the Cessnock LGA. The toilets are difficult to access and are not in line with the Building Code of Australia in that accessible toilet facilities are not provided;
- The BBQs to be installed are green barbeques (greenhouse friendly and energy efficient) and are more enclosed and secure than previous BBQs at the site;
- that Council has had success with existing koppers log fencing at the site, requiring minimal maintenance, and will continue this direction;
- Council Rangers will frequently monitor the park in an attempt to reduce undesirable behaviours; and
- A site specific Plan of Management will be created for Pokolbin Park to address the management of the site.

A verbal submission was also provided from another adjacent land owner regarding the draft Masterplan for Pokolbin Park. The landowner recommended that due to the high use of the park and the nature of the existing facilities provided (barbeques, picnic shelters, toilet facilities) that the installation of a children's playground be incorporated into future plans for the site. This is currently being considered in the draft 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan.

The Pokolbin Park Masterplan will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the preparation of prioritised capital works programs as well land releases and future developments which may alter the recreational needs of the area.

Council approval is now required to adopt the Masterplan.

RECOMMENDATION that Council adopt the draft Masterplan for Pokolbin Park.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee – 5 March 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
25 February 2008

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES

REPORT NO. 19/2008

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DONATION

Community Worker, Ms Jessica Forbes, reports:

On the 6 September 2006 Council resolved to adopt a Donations Policy. Since this time Council has funded various requests for donations.

Below are further donation requests that Council has received that meets the criteria set out in the Donations Policy.

VISION AUSTRALIA “SHACK WEEKEND’

Correspondence received 4 February 2008 seeking sponsorship towards Vision Australia’s annual “Shack Weekend” at Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Camp for families who have children who are blind or have low vision.

Vision Australia offers this weekend to families, so to provide children who have low vision or who are blind an opportunity to try new things that they may not have undertaken in the past. This is a valuable service as many of these families find it difficult to locate recreational and social activities that are affordable and appropriate to the whole family.

There are five (5) families in the Cessnock LGA that will be extended an invitation to attend this weekend with one (1) family having already attended a previous weekend camp.

CHARITY CONCERT FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND EQUIPMENT FOR MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE (MND) PATIENTS

Correspondence received 22 February 2008 seeking sponsorship towards a Charity Concert that aims to raise funds to assist Medical Research and purchase equipment for MND patients within the Hunter Region.

The Charity Concert will be held at the Cessnock Ex-Services Club on 5 April 2008 and will take the form of a Country Music Show. Although there are only a small number of people in the Cessnock LGA (3) that are affected by MND the impact of the disease is considered significant. MND not only affects the person diagnosed with the disease but it has an impact on family members, carers and friends as the disease is extremely debilitating and there is no current cure.

NAIDOC WEEK 2008 SCHOOL INITIATIVE COMPETITIONS

Correspondence received 15 February 2008 seeking sponsorship towards the NAIDOC Week 2008 School Initiative Competitions.

The competitions include a colouring-in/ short story competition which is open to all primary school students and a creative writing/essay competition which is open to all secondary students. The ultimate aim of these competitions is to provide children with a greater understanding on the importance of friendship and cultural diversity. The competitions reflect Aboriginal ancestry and promote the growth of positive attitudes in all students towards Aboriginal people.

Council has funded this initiative in the past to the value of \$450 and the response from last year's initiative in the Cessnock LGA was overwhelming with similar enthusiasm being anticipated in 2008.

KURRI KURRI AND DISTRICT PRE-SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN INC. OBSTACLE COURSE FUNDRAISER

Correspondence received 13 February 2008 seeking sponsorship towards participation in an obstacle course fundraiser to be held on 8th, 9th & 11th April 2008. People are invited to participate in an obstacle course which raises money through being sponsored for each lap of the course completed. This year the Mayor has been invited to participate in the event as he did so last year. Funds raised through this event are used to purchase much needed equipment for the students at Kurri Kurri and District Pre-school Kindergarten.

A copy of these requests have been included with the Enclosure Documents and there is presently \$8,635 remaining in the Donations Budget for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION that correspondence is submitted for determination.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee – 5 March 2008

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