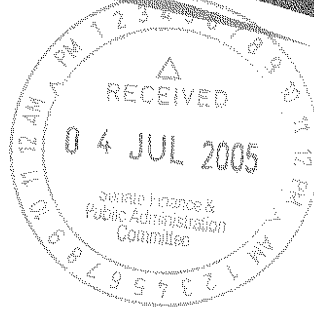


**WYONG SHIRE
COUNCIL**

building a better tomorrow!



**CENTRAL
COAST**



Wyong Shire Council ABN 47 054 613 735
DX 7306, PO Box 20, Wyong NSW Australia 2259
Phone: (02) 4350 5555 Fax: (02) 4351 2098
Email: wsc@wyong.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.wyongsc.nsw.gov.au

**JNF/Mr J Ferguson
F2005/00612
D00139586**

June 27 2005

Mr Alistair Sands
Finance & Public Administration References Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sands

Inquiry into Regional Partnerships Program

I refer to your letter of March 3 2005 requesting additional correspondence from various government departments relating to the Tumby Creek dredging project.

Please find enclosed copies of correspondence as requested. This information was sought from Council's previous filing system and more recently from Council's electronic data management system. A search was also undertaken of Council's Email system. The correspondence has been grouped into the following compilations.

1. Correspondence from the Office of the Hon. Jim Lloyd MP
2. Correspondence from the Office of the Hon. John Anderson MP
3. Correspondence from the Office of Mr Ken Ticehurst MP
4. Correspondence from the Department of Transport and Regional Services

Should further assistance be required please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

**D G Cathers
Director
SHIRE SERVICES**



Office of the Hon Jim Lloyd MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TERRITORIES AND ROADS

I Graeme Norman Hallett write to formally request part of the transcript of the Ordinary Meeting of the Wyong Shire Council held on 24 November 2004.

The part concerns the questioning and debate on the dredging of Tumbi Creek and the need for or otherwise the dredging work following rain in November 2004.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GN Hallett', written in a cursive style.

GN Hallett

9 February 2005

/ /2005

From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 9 August 2004 2:34 PM
To: Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor; ben.morton@aph.gov.au; ken.ticehurst.mp@aph.gov.au;
lisamaree.bailey@aph.gov.au
Subject: Tumbi Creek announcement plan recommendation

Dear people

At 9 am on 26 August the full measure of Tumbi Creek funding will be announced at the site.

I recommend that we must make this announcement a little more professional than just standing on the jetty, speaking and moving off asap.

With a minister and parliamentary secretary present we must offer some sustenance and time to meet with the media and local residents.

I agree with Brenton that we should not seek WSC expenditure on this.

Therefore a Dobell campaign should fund a simple barbeque breakfast with juice, tea and coffee. We can either hire equipment or use a supporters.

We will punt on the fact that it won't rain.

Finally I recommend that an addressed letter of invitation go to residents who live near by the creek to come and hear an "important announcement" and share breakfast with Ken, the Mayor and Ministers.

Please advise your views so we can bed this down.

thanks

Graeme

11/04/2005

From: Hallett, Graeme (Sen H. Coonan) [Graeme.Hallett@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, 12 September 2004 5:23 PM
To: Ticehurst, Ken (MP)
Cc: Cr Greg Best
Subject: Please sign on your letter head as discussed

As the local Member of Parliament for the Federal electorate of Dobell I am determined to continue working with elected councillors on those local government issues affecting the Wyong Shire Council.

I am totally committed to delivering Australian Government programmes and funds for environmental and infrastructure issues concerning the Wyong Council should the Howard Government receive a mandate on 9 October 2004.

I have a proven record of understanding the importance of keeping our local area as a great place to live. The fight to do the right thing to remove silt from Tumbi Creek and not dump it back into Tuggerah Lake is a case in point.

The \$1.3m of federal funding is now finalised to do this \$2m project work in conjunction with the Wyong Shire Council. The failure of the NSW State Government to assist with funds represents a gross abrogation of responsibility by the Carr Government.

Further to the local environment, the sand and accumulated silt at The Entrance bar can no longer be ignored.

I have discussed this matter with The Entrance Chamber of Commerce and local residents. It is my intention to consult further with Mayor, Brenton Pavier and Councillors' Greg Best, Doug Eaton, Robyn Stewart, Ron Stevens, Carl Veugen and Bob Graham about the way forward.

I intend also to seek the co-operation of Cr Neil Rose and his ALP colleagues.

The options for doing this job are many and complex. Like Tumbi Creek I want the job done right and done once. To that end I will seek Federal funding to prepare on Wyong Council and ratepayers' behalf, a brief of options and costings on The Entrance bar that can be put out for community consultation.

This initial phase of action by way of my representations to my federal colleagues is designed to remove the cost burden of the initial investigations on the ratepayer at Wyong Shire Council.

You have my commitment to work towards this objective of environmental care for the Tuggerah Lakes system should I be re-elected for a second term as the member for Dobell.

Yours sincerely

Ken Ticehurst MP

11/04/2005

From: Hallett, Graeme (Sen H. Coonan) [Graeme.Hallett@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2004 9:31 AM
To: Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor
Cc: Cr Greg Best
Subject: Water initiative plus some questions for Meham

Morning gentlemen

You have campaigned on saving medicare and increasing bulk billing here in this shire, so specifically what will be the number of extra bulk billing doctors that your ALP policy will provide to the Wyong Shire?

What happens to this pledge if the doctors don't accept the incentives to bulk bill as many have indicated the incentives are insufficient to change the economics of their practices?

Still on health, you have run a number of "community petitions", including one on the Warnervale/North Wyong Health Centre project. Do you concede that lobbying by your main opponent has delivered the project for the Central Coast Division of General Practice? What extra would a Labor Government provide to this facility?

What efforts did you make to persuade your ALP State minister colleague, Grant McBride to deliver the one third share of funding to the Tumbi Creek project?

What is your opinion of the project in relation to the dredge and remove strategy that has been funded by this Council and the Federal Government?

Can you influence the State Labor Government to fore-go the \$300,000 tipping fees it will charge this council when the project begins?

Your campaign on parking meter fees has raised some interest in the local community. What is the basis of this campaign? Where is the evidence for the introduction of parking meter fees in Wyong? Is it a fact that the only parking fees charged in the Wyong Shire are those levied by the Carr Government at the Munmorah State Recreation Park?

What is the ALP policy on the financial assistance grants to this council from the Commonwealth?

Will the direct payment to this council of roads to recovery funds continue under a Latham Government?

-----Original Message-----

From: Bailey, Lisa Maree (K.Ticehurst, MP)
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2004 8:30 AM
To: Bailey, Lisa Maree (K.Ticehurst, MP)
Subject: PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO GET WATER-WISE

Regards

Lisa-Maree Bailey
Media Adviser
Office of Ken Ticehurst MP
Federal Member for Dobell
(02) 4334 1930
(02) 4334 7144
0419 225 844

11/04/2005

From: Hallett, Graeme (Sen H. Coonan) [Graeme.Hallett@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2004 5:01 PM
To: Cr Doug Eaton; Cr Ron Stevens
Subject: FW: Water initiative plus some questions for Meham

Draft questions for Wednesday evening.

Regards

Graeme

-----Original Message-----

From: Hallett, Graeme (Sen H. Coonan)
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2004 9:38 AM
To: 'info@pavier.com.au'
Subject: FW: Water initiative plus some questions for Meham

Re-send

-----Original Message-----

From: Hallett, Graeme (Sen H. Coonan)
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2004 9:31 AM
To: 'pavierb@wyong.nsw.gov.au'
Cc: 'bestg@wyong.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: Water initiative plus some questions for Meham

Morning gentlemen

You have campaigned on saving medicare and increasing bulk billing here in this shire, so specifically what will be the number of extra bulk billing doctors that your ALP policy will provide to the Wyong Shire?

What happens to this pledge if the doctors don't accept the incentives to bulk bill as many have indicated the incentives are insufficient to change the economics of their practices?

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11/04/2005

From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 15 October 2004 3:45 PM
To: Cr Greg Best; Cr Brenton Pavier-Email; Cr Doug Eaton; Cr Ron Stevens; Cr Robyn Stewart; Cr Bob Graham, Deputy Mayor; Cr Carl Veugen
Cc: ken.ticehurst.mp@aph.gov.au
Subject: Australian Water Fund update and progress forward

Dear all

On advice from Minister Ian Campbell's office could I suggest the following action be taken to be totally proactive.

- The motion to the next WSC meeting should reflect the need to immediately access the \$50,000 promised by the Minister to draw up the submission for the two major issues on the Tuggerah lakes system.
- The de-salination proposal jointly with Gosford City Council
- The presentation of the existing lakes reports on all the environmental issues, including The Entrance channel and inflow creeks other than Tumby for assessment by the CSIRO and or Newcastle University experts
- These working documents are essential as they will form the basis of sound science that can unlock the \$ from the Australian Water fund
- The sooner we have this material ready to go the closer to the front of the queue and \$2 billion will go out the door rather quickly I suspect
- Any opposition to the motion about "another report" is not credible as we are advocating firm proposals to access potentially large sums. I agree that a report without the promise of real \$ is a waste of time and effort.
- Like Tumby Creek, the NSW Government can be involved or get out of the way.
- The Minister is committed to funding the WSC direct (and Gosford in the case of the de-salination project)

Please note that WSC is also invited by Minister Campbell to apply for an additional \$50,000 for a water wise education programme locally.

On Monday next Ken and I will arrange for an adviser from the Minister's office to come to Wyong and Gosford later next week to provide guidance for action in these arrangements.

regards

Graeme

11/04/2005

From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@dotars.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 12 November 2004 5:35 PM

To: Cr Greg Best

Subject: Re: NSW election funding issues

Perfect greg. Can copy in ken and stevens?

Brenton mentioned the need to stop cr graham on tumbi. This is essential.

Smith will be faxing the land and enviro court costs document this weekend.

Cheers

Graeme

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2004 8:50 AM
To: Cerasani Giulio
Cc: Cobb John; ken.ticehurst.mp@aph.gov.au; Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor; Cr Bob Graham, Deputy Mayor; Cathers, David
Subject: Tumbi Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth

Giulio

Further to our phone discussion yesterday.

A notice of motion lodged by Cr Graham for debate by Wyong Council on 24 November 2004 raises a serious question concerning the payment of tranches of the \$1.5m funding Commonwealth funding under the *Regional Partnerships programme* as announced by the Prime Minister in early October 2004. The agreement included partnership funding of \$500,000 from Wyong Council.

The essence of the Cr's motion is that some recent heavy rainfall has to some extent ameliorated the environmental problem identified at Tumbi Creek. Cr Graham has mooted the view that the funds could be re-allocated for other upstream bank erosion works.

In the light of this development I require a clear statement on behalf of the Commonwealth by DOTARS of the conditions that apply to the announced funding for the agreed works at Tumbi Creek for the dredging and removal to land fill of the spoil in Tumbi Creek.

The commitment by the Howard Government to the electors of Dobell, in partnership with Wyong Council is non negotiable. It is the position of Mr Ticehurst that the money be delivered as, agreed for the works in the schedule of the agreement under *Regional Partnerships*.

The confirmation of the strict conditions of our partnership with Wyong Shire Council under this programme should therefore be stated for the information of Wyong elected councillors and senior officers, so there can be no doubt about the way forward to deliver the commitment on Tumbi Creek.

Thank you for your early reply and attention to this matter.

Graeme Hallett
Special Adviser
Hon Jim Lloyd MP
Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads

11/04/2005

From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2004 8:51 AM
To: Cr Greg Best
Subject: FW: Tumbi Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth

Greg

fyi

GH

From: Hallett Graeme
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2004 8:50 AM
To: Cerasani Giulio
Cc: Cobb John; Ken Ticehurst (ken.ticehurst.mp@aph.gov.au); 'pavierb@wyong.nsw.gov.au'; 'grahamb@wyong.nsw.gov.au'; 'cathersd@wyong.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: Tumbi Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth

Giulio

Further to our phone discussion yesterday.

A notice of motion lodged by Cr Graham for debate by Wyong Council on 24 November 2004 raises a serious question concerning the payment of tranches of the \$1.5m funding Commonwealth funding under the *Regional Partnerships programme* as announced by the Prime Minister in early October 2004. The agreement included partnership funding of \$500,000 from Wyong Council.

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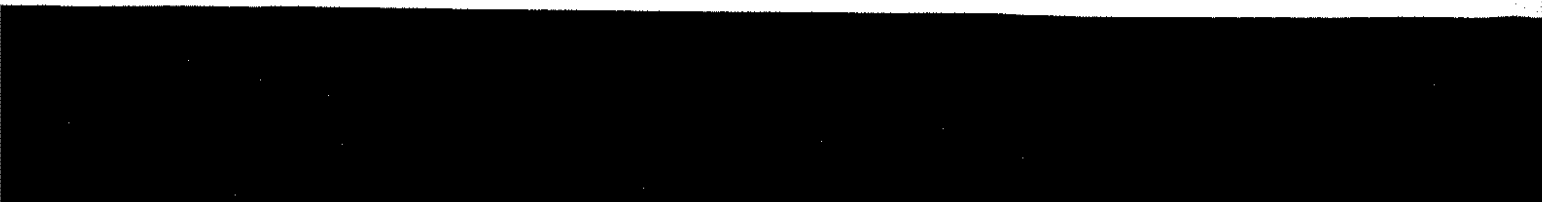
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Thank you for your early reply and attention to this matter.

Graeme Hallett
Special Adviser
Hon Jim Lloyd MP
Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads

11/04/2005



From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@olcars.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 18 November 2004 8:42 AM

To: Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor; malcolm.brooks@gosford.nsw.gov.au

Subject: FW: Request for URGENT delegation to Minister Campbell (Dobell and Robertson) Water issues

fyi on the progress of this delegation. I have had verbal ok for a date before 9 december.

graeme

From: Hallett Graeme

Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2004 11:39 AM

To: 'wayne.grant@deh.gov.au'

Cc: Minister Lloyd; Abel John; Ken Ticehurst (ken.ticehurst.mp@aph.gov.au); 'Obajdin, Amanda (K. Ticehurst, MP)'; Newson Leonie

Subject: Request for URGENT delegation to Minister Campbell (Dobell and Robertson) Water issues

Wayne

You will recall Minister Campbell visited the Dobell electorate late in Campaign 2004 to support the re-election of Ken Ticehurst MP.

Specifically (as per the faxed media clip from the *Central Coast Express* newspaper 30 September 2004 p3) the Minister encouraged the Wyong and Gosford Councils to apply for funding under the *National Water Initiative* programme to assist these coastal councils augment dwindling fresh water supplies for their joint Gosford/Wyong Water Authority. Minister Lloyd and Mr Ticehurst are keen to advance this policy initiative.

In addition the Wyong Council and Mr Ticehurst want to clarify the processes for gaining Commonwealth support for environmental works on the Tuggerah Lakes system that is the heart of the Dobell electorate. This builds on the Commonwealth involvement in solving the environmental problem at Tumbi Creek, an inflow into the Tuggerah Lake.

Mr Ticehurst and Minister Lloyd have written to Minister Campbell on these matters.

To move this forward both members would request a meeting on a sitting day at Parliament House Canberra with Ian prior to the Christmas recess, to introduce a small delegation to discuss the following draft agenda.

National Water Initiative Funding Gosford/Wyong Councils Proposed Meeting

Attendees: Hon Jim Lloyd MP, Ken Ticehurst MP, Cr Malcolm Brooks OAM Mayor of Gosford City Council, Cr Brenton Pavier Mayor Wyong Shire Council, CEO Gosford and Wyong Councils the head of the engineering divisions of both councils.

Agenda Suggested time with Minister Campbell 30 minutes (possible follow up on the day with EA advisers could be arranged while the delegation is here)

- **Delegation introduced by Minister Lloyd and Mr Ticehurst**
- **Discussion of the Howard Government National Water Initiative policy**
- **The application process**
- **Joint Water Authority submission, including de-salination issues for Commonwealth assistance under the programme for evaluation and comment by EA**
- **Wyong Council submissions on Tuggerah Lakes environmental works**

- **Discussion of costings and time lines**

Please call to discuss.

regards

Graeme

0419 688 440

From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2004 12:21 PM
To: Cr Greg Best
Subject: Tumbi Creek statement on funding use restrictions


Greg

This will be with me by cob tomorrow from DOTARS and I will get to you and Mayor Pavier asap after that.

regards

Graeme

11/04/2005



From: Hallett Graeme [Graeme.Hallett@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2004 2:33 PM
To: ken.ticehurst.mp@aph.gov.au; Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor; Cr Greg Best; Cr Ron Stevens; Cr Doug Eaton; Cr Robyn Stewart
Subject: FW: Tumbi Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth
Importance: High

See the response below.

Any changes means less federal money, so the Wyong officials should keep their counsel on this if we want the total allocated by the PM for Tumbi Creek.

regards

Graeme

From: Cerasani Giulio
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2004 1:02 PM
To: Hallett Graeme
Cc: Gottlob Roger; Thomas Joy
Subject: FW: Tumbi Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth
Importance: High

Graeme,

As requested, DOTARS' advice concerning the implications of the recent developments at Tumbi Creek for the grants approved under Regional Partnerships for the dredging of the Creek is below.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you require more.

Giulio

From: Dolman Gary
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2004 12:31 PM
To: Cerasani Giulio
Cc: Riggs Leslie; Petrovsky Alex; Pantelidis Steve
Subject: RE: Tumbi Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth
Importance: High

Guilio,

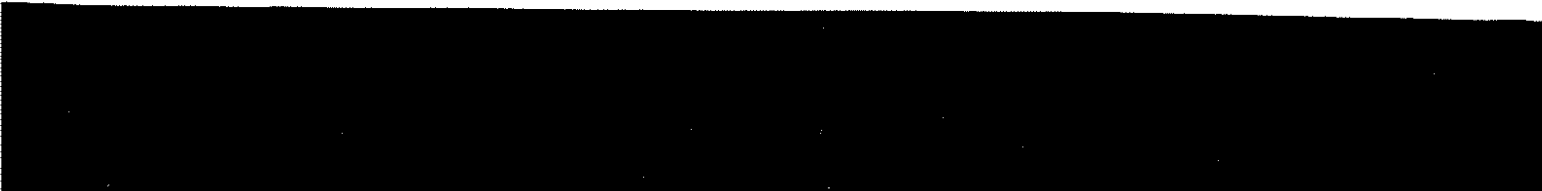
As discussed, our suggested response to Mr Hallett follows.

Gary

The two projects agreed by Mrs Kelly regarding Tumbi Creek are yet to be contracted and will be impacted upon by the recent removal of the blockage at the mouth of Tumbi Creek. The approved projects were to deliver the following three outcomes:

1. access for recreational boats to Tuggerah Lake;
2. improved water quality in Tumbi Creek;
3. mitigation of flood risks to low lying properties near the creek mouth.

11/04/2005



The Department is currently waiting for advice from Wyong Council regarding the implications of the recent removal of the blockage at the mouth of Tumby Creek on the dredging project. A revised project schedule and costing will be negotiated with the Council.

If this results in reduced project costs, it is proposed that the Commonwealth will reduce its grant contribution until project costs are equally shared by Wyong Council and the Commonwealth (i.e. until total project cost falls under \$1.36 million (GST Exclusive) all the cost saving will reduce the Commonwealth's (currently 67% contribution) after that threshold cost savings will be shared equally by the Council and the Commonwealth.

If Wyong Council wishes to revise the project to include outcomes beyond those agreed by Mrs Kelly (eg: "upstream bank erosion works") this would require a formal request by the Council for the consideration of the Parliamentary Secretary, Mr John Cobb.

From: Cerasani Giulio
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2004 10:44 AM
To: Dolman Gary
Cc: Riggs Leslie; Pantelidis Steve
Subject: FW: Tumby Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth

Gary,

See the email below from Graeme Hallett in Minister Lloyd's Office. He has asked if the Department can provide some advice as soon as possible on what these developments (ie. the natural dredging of Tumby Creek by the recent heavy rainfall) mean for the administration of \$1m grant approved under Regional Partnerships for the dredging of the Creek. I understand Alex Petrovsky is aware of these developments and may have started thinking about what they mean for the RP contract.

Email advice will be sufficient. I will send a formal request for advice through PLS this morning.

Giulio

From: Hallett Graeme
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2004 8:50 AM
To: Cerasani Giulio
Cc: Cobb John; Ken Ticehurst (ken.ticehurst.mp@aph.gov.au); 'pavierb@wyong.nsw.gov.au'; 'grahamb@wyong.nsw.gov.au'; 'cathersd@wyong.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: Tumby Creek project funding agreement with the Commonwealth

Giulio

Further to our phone discussion yesterday.

A notice of motion lodged by Cr Graham for debate by Wyong Council on 24 November 2004 raises a serious question concerning the payment of tranches of the \$1.5m funding Commonwealth funding under the *Regional Partnerships programme* as announced by the Prime Minister in early October 2004. The agreement included partnership funding of \$500,000 from Wyong Council.

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as, agreed for the works in the schedule of the agreement under *Regional Partnerships*.

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Thank you for your early reply and attention to this matter.

Graeme Hallett
Special Adviser
Hon Jim Lloyd MP
Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads



The Hon De-Anne Kelly BE MP
Parliamentary Secretary to

The Hon John Anderson MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader of the Nationals

The Hon Mark Vaile MP
Minister for Trade
Deputy Leader of the Nationals

Mr Michael Long
Manager, Open Space & Recreation
Wyong Shire Council
PO Box 20
WYONG NSW 2259

02 JUL 2004

Dear Mr Long

I am pleased to advise you that I have approved funding under *Regional Partnerships* of \$748,000 (GST inclusive) to the Wyong Shire Council for its Tumbi Creek Dredging project.

Funding for the project has been approved, subject to confirmation of all other funding and relevant approvals being in place.

An officer from my Department will be contacting you shortly to discuss contractual arrangements for the grant. You will need to sign a formal Funding Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions of the grant, including performance indicators, and return this document prior to making any specific commitments and before the grant can be paid.

Regional Partnerships is a popular source of grants and there are many projects competing for funding. It would be appreciated if contractual arrangements were finalised with my Department within 14 days of receiving a draft contract. Please notify my Department if you are unable to meet this timeline.

I have written to Mr Ken Ticehurst MP advising of this grant and asked that he liaise with you so that you can make suitable arrangements to announce the provision of the grant publicly. I ask your organisation to keep my advice confidential until this has occurred.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your organisation on its successful submission and wish you and your organisation every success with the project.

Yours sincerely

De-Anne Kelly



The Hon De-Anne Kelly BE MP
Parliamentary Secretary to

The Hon John Anderson MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader of the Nationals

The Hon Mark Vaile MP
Minister for Trade
Deputy Leader of the Nationals

Mr Michael Long
Manager, Open Space & Recreation
Wyong Shire Council
PO Box 20
WYONG NSW 2259

26 AUG 2004

Dear Mr Long

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The funding has been approved subject to all relevant approvals being obtained. The Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, announced funding for the project today.

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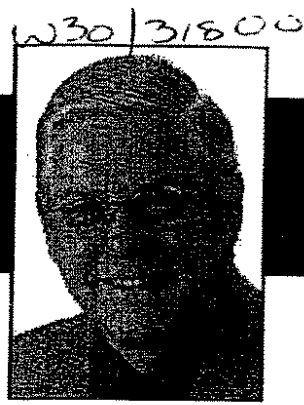
Yours sincerely

De-Anne Kelly



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



8 December 2003

media release

Media Alert

Ken Ticehurst MP, Federal Member for Dobell will tomorrow make an announcement regarding Federal funding for the dredging of Tumbi Creek.

When: Tuesday 9th December 2003
9:15 am

Where: Mouth of Tumbi Creek
The Peninsula
Tumbi Creek / Killarney Vale

**DETAILS OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE ARE STRICTLY EMBARGOED
UNTILL THE TIME OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.**

More Details from Ben Morton on 43341930 or 0416006576

File

For further information, please contact Lisa-Maree Bailey on 4334 1930

Ken Ticehurst MP*Federal Member for Dobell***media release**

9 December 2003

Ticehurst Delivers Federal Money for Tumbi Creek Dredging

Federal Member for Dobell, Ken Ticehurst today welcomed news that Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads Senator Ian Campbell has made available \$340,000 in federal funding to encourage Wyong Shire Council to adopt a more sensible approach of disposing the spoil from Tumbi Creek.

The funding has been made available under The Australian Government's Regional Flood Mitigation program (RFMP), which is designed to assist State and Territory Governments and local councils in the implementation of priority, cost-effective flood mitigation works and measures.

Minster Campbell said that while the RFMP allocation for 2003-2004 is heavily committed to RFMP priorities, there is an amount of some \$340,000 beyond those allocations as yet uncommitted.

Minister Campbell agreed with Mr Ticehurst and the local community that Wyong Shire Council and the NSW Government's decision to dredge and dump 15,000 cubic metres of silt from the mouth of Tumbi Creek into the shallow estuarine Tuggerah Lakes is not a sensible approach.

"I have carefully considered Ken Ticehurst's representations against the plan to dump thousands of cubic metres of silt onto the bed of Tuggerah Lake. I am sympathetic to the view that the best option should be pursued to address this risk, having regard to the full range of economic, environmental and social factors," Minister Campbell said.

Mr Ticehurst said, "Senator Campbell is prepared to withhold the \$340,000 surplus from distribution to other projects for the moment and offer it towards a contribution for the off-site disposal option, which has been estimated by council to cost \$1.3 million.

"The offer is conditional upon both the NSW Government and Wyong Shire Council supporting it as a priority project for Regional Flood Mitigation funding."

"It must be made clear that should Wyong Council decide to dredge the creek tomorrow and disperse the silt over Tuggerah Lakes, there is nothing we can do to stop them as the lake does not come under federal jurisdiction.

For further information, please contact Lisa-Maree Bailey on (02) 4334 1930

Canberra Office:
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: (02) 6277 2106
Fax: (02) 6277 8441
Ken.Ticehurst.MP@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office:
211b The Entrance Road
(PO Box 407)
The Entrance NSW 2261
Phone: (02) 4334 1930
Fax: (02) 4334 7144



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



working for the Central Coast

Thursday, 16 December 2004

Mr K Yates
General Manager
Wyong Shire Council
PO Box 20
WYONG NSW 2259

Dear Mr Yates *Kerry*

Thank you for your recent letter dated December 13 2004 in which you notified me of a Notice of Motion concerning Tumbi Creek.

I have read the items listed in the Notice and consider that your request for me to seek further funding relies on Mr McBride and the NSW State Government allowing WSC to achieve the current objective, once this can be confirmed I would be more than happy to investigate any further funding opportunities available to the Dobell area to complete necessary works.

Having spent many hours representing my electorate to Federal Ministers on the subject of Tumbi Creek and I am of the opinion that it would be reasonable to be able inform Minister's that work will begin on that project prior to asking for more NSW State government obligations to be Federally funded.

I look forward to receiving an update from council with relation to Mr McBride's progress on removing the NSW State government barriers to this project.

Sincerely

Ken Ticehurst MP
Federal Member for Dobell

kt:bp



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell

media release



"However, both Minister Campbell and I strongly believe that a three tiered approach to the health of the Tuggerah Lakes system is vital for the future of the lake."

Mr Ticehurst said he was grateful to Minister Campbell for listening to and taking on board his concerns and the concerns of local residents.

"I now urge Wyong Shire Council to accept the money to do the job properly and to encourage the NSW government as owner of the lake to join the party and do their bit to help protect the vital ecosystem that is Tuggerah Lakes.

"As I have said time and time again, it is vital that we do a proper job of this, for our sake, and for the sake of future generations," he said.

Mr Ticehurst is today writing to the State Environment Minister and Member for The Entrance Grant McBride urging them to do the right thing by the community by assisting Wyong Shire Council to do the job in an environmentally responsible manner.

Mr Ticehurst thanked those members of the community that had worked with him in his campaign to save Tuggerah Lakes from further degradation.

"It is amazing what can be achieved when the community and their Federal Member work together to achieve local results.

"I now urge residents to pressure Wyong Council and local state members to accept this offer and to make an application under the Regional Flood Mitigation program," he said.

Ends

For further information, please contact Lisa-Maree Bailey on (02) 4334 1930

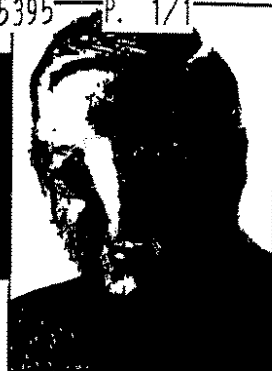
Canberra Office:
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: (02) 6277 2106
Fax: (02) 6277 8441
Ken.Ticehurst.MP@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office
211b The Entrance Rd
(PO Box 4C)
The Entrance NSW 22
Phone: (02) 4334 19
Fax: (02) 4334 71

W.S.C. MAYOR

Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



working for the Central Coast

Wednesday, 10 March 2004

Cr Greg Best
Mayor
Wyong Shire Council
Po Box 20
Wyong NSW 2259

VACATION	
Doc No.	677953
RECD	11 MAR 2004
ADJ	14
	MAY 14/30/31800

Notes ss
11/8/04

Dear Mayor Best,

I would like to extend to you my apologies for my absence at tonight's Council Meeting. Unfortunately Parliamentary sittings in Canberra prevent me from attending.

I would have hoped to be present while councillors debate the important rescission motion that if successful would not allow any of the silt from Tumbi Creek to be deposited into our precious lake, but rather carted to a land fill site.

The letter in your possession from Senator Ian Campbell, Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads carries the news that the NSW Minister, Mr Knowles does not support an allocation from the joint Regional Flood Mitigation Programme (RFMP) monies being used on the Tumbi Creek project.

Quite frankly, I am very disappointed that the NSW State Government has failed to acknowledge their responsibilities to the lake that they own. The Federal Government has no responsibility over the Tuggerah Lakes system but given my strong lobbying on this issue I was successful in gaining the Federal Government's support for the expenditure of the RFMP money.

As you are aware the Regional Flood Mitigation agreement requires that both the Federal and State Governments agree to the expenditure of funds.

I would have thought that the NSW State Government would have welcomed this additional Federal assistance to deal with an environmental issue of such local sensitivity.

Council is urged to continue the fight to gain the financial support of the NSW Government as my colleague, Senator Campbell assures me that the \$340,000 promised earlier remains on the table in the hope that Minister Knowles will reverse his arrogant decision.

In conclusion I would hope that Councillors support the rescission motion as our environment and our lakes are too precious to be dealt a blow by dumping 15,000 cubic metres of sludge and silt onto the lake floor.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Ticehurst MP
Federal Member for Dobell



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



Tuesday 8 June 2004

media release

Federal funds available for Tumbi Creek dredging

Federal Member for Dobell Ken Ticehurst is seeking to increase the offer of federal funding towards the Tumbi Creek dredging and landfill disposal offsite if Wyong Council ask for it through an application process.

"I am seeking \$680,000 to provide a third of the \$2 million needed to enable a "dredge and remove" works program to be undertaken as soon as possible," Mr Ticehurst said.

"The funds for Tumbi Creek are available in the *Regional Partnerships* programme of the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services.

"The appropriate application from Wyong Shire Council is awaited by the Department of Transport and Regional Services. Subject to Wyong Council resolving on Wednesday to formally apply, an application will be lodged with the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

"This is an example of a true partnership between Wyong Council and the Federal Government as the name of the programme, *Regional Partnerships* implies," Mr Ticehurst said.

"It is vital that we do this job properly, and that we do it urgently.

"In light of my commitment to support extra funding from the available pool of money, I hope that at Wednesday night's council meeting, Wyong Councillors' agree to commit to one-third of the cost to do this job properly. The NSW Government and Grant McBride must now commit their one third share as well.

"To this date, the NSW Labor Government has failed to acknowledge its responsibilities to the lake that it owns.

"We have a state government that is swimming in money but has so far failed to commit it to protecting our environment here on the Central Coast

"I will not stop until this work at Tumbi Creek is done in the manner demanded by the community," Mr Ticehurst said.

For further information, please contact Lisa-Maree Bailey on (02) 4334 1930 or



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



Monday, 5 July 2004

media release

Ticehurst secures \$680,000 for Tumbi Creek dredge

Member for Dobell Ken Ticehurst has secured \$680,000 in Australian Government funds towards dredging Tumbi Creek and carting the dredged material to a landfill site.

The funding was approved under the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships programme.

"This is not the end of the story. With two-thirds of the money now guaranteed, the State Government and Grant McBride must come to the party and provide its one-third share of funding for our lake," Mr Ticehurst said

"I have worked with the local community, I have supported their ideas, and together we have delivered \$680,000 of federal money towards this project. I intend to deliver on my promise to local people that the jewel of the Central Coast, Tuggerah Lakes, will not be dispoiled by the silt and sludge from Tumbi Creek.

"I am tired of the antics of the NSW Labor Government; their refusal to commit funds to the lake that they own and are responsible for. Mr McBride, your government has two weeks and no longer to commit \$680,000 towards this dredging job.

"Don't disappoint us Grant. For the future of the Central Coast we need to do a proper job of our lake system and to do that we need your government to provide a fair share of funding towards the dredge works.

"If the NSW Government does not come back with a firm guarantee of funds at the next Wyong Council meeting on Wednesday 14 July, I vow to then go back to Canberra to fight for the remaining share of funding from the Prime Minister. As one of you here on the coast, I will not go to the federal election without delivering the dredging and disposal off-site job at Tumbi Creek, as is demanded by the community. This is my pledge.

Mr Ticehurst said local residents were eager for the valuable recreational asset that is Tumbi Creek to be restored in an environmentally friendly way as soon as possible.

"People want to use their recreational boats to access Tuggerah Lake from the Tumbi boat ramp, residents living on the lake are concerned of the risk of flooding while the creek remains undredged and parents and children want to be able to swim and fish in the creek.

"The improved creek flushing and water quality once the creek is dredged means this is likely to become a reality for many people," he said.

Ends

For further information, please contact Lisa-Maree Bailey on (02) 4334 1930 or 0419 225 844

Canberra Office:
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: (02) 6277 2106
Fax: (02) 6277 8441
Ken.Ticehurst.MP@aph.gov.au

Electorate Office:
211b The Entrance Road
(PO Box 407)
The Entrance NSW 2261
Phone: (02) 4334 1930
Fax: (02) 4334 7144



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



working for the Central Coast

September 13, 2004

Mr Kerry Yates
General Manager
Wyong Shire Council
PO Box 20
Wyong NSW 2259

Dear Mr Yates,

Kerry
As the local Member of Parliament for the Federal electorate of Dobell I am determined to continue working with elected councillors on those local government issues affecting the Wyong Shire Council.

I am totally committed to delivering Australian Government programmes and funds for environmental and infrastructure issues concerning the Wyong Council should the Howard Government receive a mandate on 9 October 2004.

I have a proven record of understanding the importance of keeping our local area as a great place to live. The fight to do the right thing to remove silt from Tumbi Creek and not dump it back into Tuggerah Lake is a case in point.

The \$1.3m of federal funding is now finalised to do this \$2m project work in conjunction with the Wyong Shire Council. The failure of the NSW State Government to assist with funds represents a gross abrogation of responsibility by the Carr Government.

Further to the local environment, the sand and accumulated silt at The Entrance bar can no longer be ignored.

I have discussed this matter with The Entrance Chamber of Commerce and local residents. It is my intention to consult further with Mayor, Brenton Pavier and Councillors' Greg Best, Doug Eaton, Robyn Stewart, Ron Stevens, Carl Veugen and Bob Graham about the way forward.

I intend also to seek the co-operation of Cr Neil Rose and his ALP colleagues.

The options for doing this job are many and complex. Like Tumbi Creek I want the job done right and done once. To that end I will seek Federal funding to prepare on Wyong Council and ratepayers' behalf, a brief of options and costings on The Entrance bar that can be put out for community consultation.

This initial phase of action by way of my representations to my federal colleagues is designed to remove the cost burden of the initial investigations on the ratepayer at Wyong Shire Council.

You have my commitment to work towards this objective of environmental care for the Tuggerah Lakes system should I be re-elected for a second term as the member for Dobell.

Yours sincerely

Ken Ticehurst MP



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



working for the Central Coast

Cr Brenton Pavier
Mayor of Wyong Shire
P.O. Box 20
WYONG NSW 2259

Dear Brenton

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to Federal Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, seeking confirmation of commitments made to Wyong Shire during the Minister's recent visit to the Central Coast.

Yours sincerely

Ken Ticehurst
Member for Dobell

20 OCT 2004



Ken Ticehurst MP

Federal Member for Dobell



working for the Central Coast

Senator The Hon. Ian Campbell
Minister for the Environment and Heritage
Exchange Plaza, 2 The Esplanade
Perth WA 6000

Dear Minister Campbell

I am writing to confirm commitments made to Wyong Shire Council and the Dobell electorate during your visit to the Central Coast on Wednesday 29 September, 2004.

During your visit you established Tuggerah Lakes would be one of 20 projects to be managed by the Federal Government over the next year. Specifically you stated:

- \$50,000 could be available immediately under the Water-Wise Communities initiative to fund an investigation into the Tuggerah Lakes system, possibly by the CSIRO and/or University of Newcastle experts; and
- Additional funding would be available from the \$2 billion water fund for other catchment management water projects.

Our water catchment is our most precious asset on the Central Coast and it is something I am committed to working with all levels of government to protect.

We are determined to get these projects underway as soon as possible. I understand Wyong Council have existing lakes reports on all the environmental issues, including The Entrance channel and inflow creeks, ready for assessment.

Would it be possible to arrange for an adviser from your office to visit Dobell in the coming week to provide guidance to me and the Gosford Wyong Councils' Joint Water Authority on how to action these arrangements? I would be very grateful.

Please phone me on (02) 4334 1930 to discuss.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Ken Ticehurst MP
Federal Member for Dobell

cc Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor of Wyong Shire
Cr Malcolm Brooks, Mayor of Gosford City
Kerry Yates, General Manager WSC
Peter Wilson, General Manager GCC

-----Original Message-----

From: Obajdin, Amanda (K. Ticehurst, MP) [mailto:Amanda.Obajdin@aph.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2004 5:02 PM

To: Long, Mike

Subject: RE: CONFIDENTIAL - TUMBI CREEK

Hi David,

I have received 10 pages by fax. I presume this is correct?

Thank you

Kind regards

Amanda

From: Morton, Ben (K. Ticehurst, MP) [Ben.Morton@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 9 August 2004 3:02 PM
To: Hallett Graeme; Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor; Ticehurst, Ken (MP); Bailey, Lisa Maree (K.Ticehurst, MP)
Cc: Obajdin, Amanda (K. Ticehurst, MP)
Subject: RE: Tumbi Creek announcement plan recommendation
Importance: High

Graeme & others,

Your right I always thought that asking WSC to put this on was a bit rich.

I agree with you that we should be a little more professional, but a BBQ breakfast how stupid.

Firstly by 9am most people would have had breakfast and if people were invited to a Breakfast with these Ministers their expectation of the breakfast would be a lot higher than we could supply with a BBQ on the shore of the lake.

A marquee on site with a morning tea of cakes, slices, biscuits, tea, coffee and juices would be much more practical.

It would also be a good idea to invite some of the Lake stakeholders to attend like the fishermen, CCCEN ect that have supported us throughout this campaign.

Corflutes have been ordered today, I would not get too excited with spending because Cash flow is not great.

Also Amanda has told me that neither Minister has officially confirmed with her despite Amanda's calls to their offices.

Regards,

Ben

Ben Morton
Adviser
Office of the Federal Member for Dobell
Phone: 4334 1930
Fax: 4334 7144
211b The Entrance Rd (PO Box 407)
THE ENTRANCE NSW 2261

The information contained in this Email is for the addressee only, do not duplicate or re-direct without permission.

From: Bailey, Lisa Maree (K.Ticehurst, MP) [LisaMaree.Bailey@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 6 December 2004 1:37 PM
To: malcolm.brooks@gosford.nsw.gov.au; Peter.wilson@gosford.nsw.gov.au; Cr Brenton Pavier, Mayor; Cathers, David; Yates, Kerry; Down, Kristie; Cr Bob Graham, Deputy Mayor; Cr Carl Veugen; Cr Doug Eaton; Cr Greg Best; Cr Robyn Stewart; Cr Ron Stevens
Subject: COAST WATER WOES FAST-TRACKED TO NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION
Importance: High

Hi

Please find below a media release re today's meeting between Federal Environment Minister Senator Ian Campbell, coast MHRs Ken Ticehurst and Jim Lloyd and Wyong and Gosford councils.

Regards

Lisa-Maree Bailey
Media Adviser
Office of Ken Ticehurst
Federal Member for Dobell
(02) 6277 2106

Tuesday 30 November 2004

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Ken Ticehurst, Member for Dobell

Jim Lloyd, Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, Member for Robertson

COAST WATER WOES FAST-TRACKED TO NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION

Federal Environment Minister Senator Ian Campbell today committed to fast-tracking the Gosford/Wyong Joint Water Authority's submission to the National Water Commission for priority funding, an initiative MPs for Dobell and Robertson, Ken Ticehurst and Jim Lloyd have commended.

"Today's meeting will allow us to literally hand our funding submission to Mr Ken Matthews, head of National Water Commission, for urgent consideration. This is great news and shows that the Australian Government takes the water concerns of the Central Coast very seriously," Mr Ticehurst and Mr Lloyd said.

Senator Campbell has promised to have council's submission on Mr Ken Matthew's desk within hours.

The National Water Commission is the authority appointed by the Prime Minister to administer funds for quality large scale projects to conserve water.

Minister Campbell commended both councils for taking a joint approach to seeking federal funding under the \$2 billion Water Fund and praised their application.

Building on the Australian Government's involvement in solving the environmental problem at Tumbi Creek, Wyong Shire Council and Gosford Councils are seeking funding under the Federal Government's \$2 billion water initiative for a joint water supply system to improve the coast's dwindling water supply.

11/04/2005

Wyong Council is also seeking funding for further environmental works on the Tuggerah Lakes system.

Wyong Shire Mayor Cr Brenton Pavier raised concerns over the NSW Government's interest in the Central Coast's water supply and what a take-over could mean for local business and employment.

Minister Campbell said new initiatives like the Australian Water Fund were being put in place to allow the Australian Government to work directly with councils like Gosford and Wyong to fast-track results.

Cr Pavier and Gosford City Cr Mayor Malcolm Brooks also took the opportunity to praise the coast's 305,000 residents for their commitment to conserving water.

"Both mayors were delighted with the speed at which their submission will be reaching Mr Ken Matthews for his assessment under the \$2 billion Water Fund.

"The future of the Central Coast will in many ways depend on how well we use our scarce water resources. We will continue to work in partnership with all levels of government to ensure that our water catchment is protected," Mr Ticehurst and Mr Lloyd concluded.

Ends



Australian Government

Department of Transport and Regional Services

Secretary

Mr Bob Pigott - Manager
Governance and Community Services
Wyong Shire Council
PO Box 20
WYONG, NSW 2259

Dear Mr Pigott,

Re: Tumbi Creek and Funding Programmes

Thank you for your letter of 13 December about dredging works in Tumbi Creek.

I can confirm that the Commonwealth Government's offer of up to \$1, 496,000 under Regional Partnerships remains in force and that provision of the funding is subject to the Council's maintaining its contribution as detailed in the project applications and obtaining all necessary approvals for the works. Should the final tendered price for that particular project mean it can be completed for a lesser amount than currently estimated, the Council should not make any assumptions about being able to redirect any share of the Commonwealth's grant to works outside the scope described in the funding applications.

Council may also be eligible for funding under the Commonwealth's Regional Flood Mitigation and/or Natural Disaster Mitigation Programmes. Calls for applications were placed in the Sydney Morning Herald in December 2004 and details are available from the Department's web site or you could contact the Department's programme manager for these initiatives or the relevant State agencies, as follows:

RFMP

www.dotars.gov.au/regional/rfmp

DOTARS: Ms Veronica O'Brien: ph 02 6274 8075 email: veronica.o'brien@dotars.gov.au

State contact: Mr Brian Dooley, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources ph 02 4224 9605

NDMP

www.dotars.gov.au/naturaldisasters

DOTARS: as above

State contact: Mr Andrew Fraser

State Emergency Management Committee ph 02 8247 5911

Thank you for your interest in these Commonwealth programmes.

Yours sincerely,


Michael J. Taylor
SECRETARY

11 January 2005

From: Petrovsky Alex [Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2004 2:29 PM
To: Ferguson, John
Subject: Tumbi Creek Contract

Dear John

While we have two separate grant approvals of \$680,000 + GST relating to this project these will be covered by one single contract.

As discussed Regional Partnerships contracts link payments to milestones and partner expenditure:

For example: Payment One of \$100,000 is due by 1 December 2004, on condition that all necessary government approvals have been obtained and the applicant has expended \$x on (detailed activity item). Payment 1 is to be spent on (detailed activity item).

The problem I have is that there is insufficient detail in the proposed budget/timelines to develop a contract in accordance with our guidelines.

While you may make an attempt to provide more detail, my impression is that there still is a great deal of uncertainty due to the need to obtain approvals for dredging and the conditions that may be placed on any approval - this also constrains your ability to call for tenders and prepare a detailed and accurate budget.

In these circumstances there are two choices - delay contracting until the approvals/tending processes have been completed or develop a contract that provides for future provision of this information. For example, subject to:

establishment of a project steering committee - with a DOTARS representative;

obtaining all required government approvals

development of a detailed project budget

Payment schedules/milestones to be agreed once the detailed budget and timeline has been provided.

Please let me know (by email preferably) if this is acceptable.

Note that I will be out of the office for the majority of this week.

Regards
Alex Petrovsky
Northern NSW Regional Manager

11/04/2005

-----Original Message-----

From: Petrovsky Alex [mailto:Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 13 October 2004 11:15 PM

To: Ferguson, John

Subject: RE: TRIM: RE: Tumbi Creek Contract

John

I have now been able to discuss this with our contracting manager in Canberra. He has agreed that we can contract subject to finalisation of approvals/budget/timeline.

Now I have to draft the appropriate clauses and get them cleared by our legal section in Canberra - I will send them to you for comment prior to taking that step.

Regards
Alex

-----Original Message-----

From: Petrovsky Alex [mailto:Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 12 October 2004 3:32 PM

To: Ferguson, John

Subject: RE: TRIM: RE: Tumbi Creek Contract

John

On steering committee - I agree that one that ran for the full project length is overkill. The key issue is being satisfied in regard to the project methodology and tender process (the front-end).

Agree that the payment schedule should be negotiated after the tender outcome (as dates will then be much more certain).

Regards

Alex

-----Original Message-----

From: Petrovsky Alex [mailto:Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 20 September 2004 2:29 PM
To: Ferguson, John
Subject: Tumbi Creek Contract

Dear John

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For example: Payment One of \$100,000 is due by 1 December 2004, on condition that all necessary government approvals have been obtained and the applicant has expended \$x on (detailed activity item). Payment 1 is to be spent on (detailed activity item).

The problem I have is that there is insufficient detail in the proposed budget/timelines to develop a contract in accordance with our guidelines.

While you may make an attempt to provide more detail, my impression is that there still is a great deal of uncertainty due to the need to obtain approvals for dredging and the conditions that may be placed on any approval - this also constrains your ability to call for tenders and prepare a detailed and accurate budget.

In these circumstances there are two choices - delay contracting until the approvals/tending processes have been completed or develop a contract that provides for future provision of this information. For example, subject to:
establishment of a project steering committee - with a DOTARS representative;
obtaining all required government approvals
development of a detailed project budget
Payment schedules/milestones to be agreed once the detailed budget and timeline has been provided.

Please let me know (by email preferably) if this is acceptable.

Note that I will be out of the office for the majority of this week.

Regards
Alex Petrovsky
Northern NSW Regional Manager

Attention:

This email is privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient please delete the message and notify the sender. The use, copying or distribution of this message or any information it contains, by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited by Wyong Shire Council.

From: Petrovsky Alex [Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 15 November 2004 11:03 AM

To: Ferguson, John

Subject: RE: Tumbi Creek

Thanks John

Alex

-----Original Message-----

From: Petrovsky Alex [mailto:Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 15 November 2004 10:32 AM

To: Ferguson, John

Subject: FW: Tumbi Creek

John

What does this mean for the project?

Regards

Alex

Heavy rain flushes out Tumbi Creek

DENICE BARNES

AFTER more than two years of wrangling and millions of dollars pledged for removing sludge, Tumbi Creek has flushed itself clean.

The creek had almost completely silted up after several years without good rain.

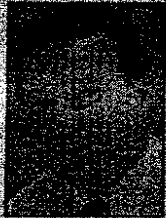
This prompted a long-running controversy over how best to dredge it and who would pay.

But heavy rain over the past month apparently has done the job the experts and politicians have been arguing over for years.

A plan signed off by the State Government that would have seen the dredged sludge dumped into the lake was aborted at the end of last year following angry community backlash.

Since then \$2 million has been earmarked to dredge the creek and cart the sludge away.

Two-thirds of the funding was coming from the Federal Govern-



Bremton Pavier.

nment and one third from Wyong Council.

ment and one third from Wyong Council.

Now a supporter of the original plan to dredge and dump the silt in the lake, Wyong Deputy Mayor Bob Graham, said

Bob Graham, said nature had done the work for them.

"It's what The Entrance State Labor MP Grant McBride and I have been saying for years," Councillor Graham said.

"All the hoo-ha was over putting the sludge in the lake and now Mother Nature has come along and done it anyway."

Cr Graham said fishermen living along Tumbi Creek were once again able to travel along the creek out into the lake.

However he said it was still important to get hold of the promised funding to help keep the creek clean and fix eroding foreshores.

ol to start.

SEE

From: Petrovsky Alex [Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 15 November 2004 11:19 AM

To: Ferguson, John

Subject: RE: Tumbi Creek

John

One thing to keep in mind is that if there is a cost saving, we may be able to re-direct funding to works consistent with the broader objectives of the project - for example erosion/sedimentation mitigation works to reduce the need for future dredging or the broader management plan for the lake system raised by Mr Ticehurst a couple of months ago.

Regards
Alex

From: Petrovsky Alex [Alex.Petrovsky@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2004 3:53 PM
To: Ferguson, John
Subject: Tumbi Creek

Dear John

I note that Tumbi Creek will be discussed at a council meeting this week - if there is a desire to vary the scope (the type of activity to be funded) of the project the council will have to make a formal request to the Department - the final decision on whether to approve any such variation will lie with the new Parliamentary Secretary to John Anderson, Mr John Cobb. If any change is simply a reduction in the volume of material to be dredged, or the method of dredging - that is a reduction in the overall cost of the project, without changing the scope, there would not be a need to approach Mr Cobb.

Getting back to the issue of contracting - I have discussed this with my Branch Manager (who holds the financial delegation required to execute a contract of this value) and he requires an update on the timeframe/methodology, my current understanding from our discussion is that:

Council will conduct a survey of the creek entrance following the recent partial resolution of the blockage - this will be used to revise the costings/methodology, if required

Council will conduct the investigations required to support its application for the approvals required to commence the project;

Until the approvals are granted, conditions (if any) on the approvals will not be known - there is a risk that conditions may be imposed that effect both the project methodology and cost (eg will the dredge spoil have to be treated prior to disposal).

Once approvals have been granted the Council will advertise the works for tender.

Until a tender has been selected, a firm project cost and timeframe will not be available.

Would it be possible for you to give estimates of:
the timing for each step
the approvals required and process.

There is one matter in the budget that I would like clarified:

1. Tip disposal fees - I note that the NSW Government has specifically excluded dredge spoil from disposal levies - can you confirm whether this is the case.

Regards
Alex

11/04/2005

From: Nightingale Chris [Christopher.Nightingale@dotars.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 28 February 2005 2:10 PM
To: Long, Mike
Cc: Jenkins Judy; Dolman Gary
Subject: Senate Inquiry - Permission to Table letters

Dear Mr Long

I refer to our conversation on Thursday afternoon regarding the Senate Inquiry into Regional Partnerships and Sustainable Regions.

At the Inquiry hearings on 10 February 2005, while discussing the Tumby Creek project and the dates of application for funding under Regional Partnerships, the Senate Committee asked the Department if it would be prepared to table two letters from Wyong Shire Council.

The letters in question relate to the Shire Council's second application to the Department for additional funding of the Tumby Creek project and are dated 25 June 2004 and 1 July 2004.

As discussed, the Department is seeking approval from the Wyong Shire Council to table these letters when the Committee next meets.

At your request this approval is now being sought in writing.

Please feel free to give me a call on (02) 6274 7948 if you wish to discuss this any further.

Regards

Chris Nightingale

Assistant Director - ACC/Senate Inquiry Team

Regional Communities Branch

Phone : (02) 6274 7948

Fax : (02) 6274 8100

Email : chris.nightingale@dotars.gov.au

12/04/2005