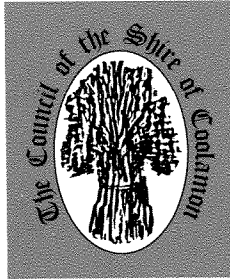


Coolamon Shire Council

Submission
No 9

Please contact Mr Terrey Kiss
TK:GOB:B.05-01
Council Ref.
Your Ref. 20 July, 2004.



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The General Manager, PO Box 101, Coolamon, 2701

Mr Kevin Greene, MP.,
Chair,
Standing Committee on Public Works,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Greene,

Thank you for your letter of the 23 June, 2004 concerning the joint use of various public buildings. This Council certainly supports the principles behind the Inquiry, however, would like to bring to attention of your Committee this Council's recent experiences in such practice.

Council in the last twelve months resolved to construct a new emergency centre. It was proposed that the facility would house the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and New South Wales Fire Brigades.

The new facility is in the final stages of construction, however, the New South Wales Fire Brigades have indicated that they are unable to be located on these premises. The reasons being given is that the standard of construction is less than standards adopted by the Fire Brigades for such a facility. I note this is a new building constructed to standards expected by both other tenants and by Council and it seems a shame that the Fire Brigades, whilst certainly requiring new area and additional space have set their standards at such a level that precludes funding being made available in country areas.

This was an ideal opportunity for all services to be located in the one area. It should also be realised that in country areas such as Coolamon, the personnel quite often wear two hats and are members of varying brigades. The New South Wales Fire Brigades should be flexible enough to be able to amend their standards to suit the circumstances.

Whilst Council accepts that you are not in a position to influence the Fire Brigades to alter their decision, the above example is brought to your attention to highlight some of the issues that do exist.

Yours faithfully,


Terrey Kiss,
GENERAL MANAGER.