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To s22

cc s47F

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Subject Katungul 2nd Progress Report [SEC=No Protective Marking]

DOCUMENT NOT YET CLASSIFIED

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Please see attached. Sorry it is so late.

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Second Report to the Commonwealth - Katungul Capital Program.docx

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Centre for Aboriginal Health
Second Progress Report on Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Community & Medical Services
Capital Works Program

This report represents an overview of the progress from 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011 of the Capital Works Program for Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Community & Medical Services (Katungul) of Narooma, NSW.

Functional Brief

NSW Health now considers the Functional Brief to be complete. Despite a lack of progress the recommended crown land site, located on Riverside Drive on the Narooma flats, still remains the best location for the development of a new facility for Katungul.

Other Options Pursued

The second option identified in the Functional Brief, the purchase of the Chinese Restaurant adjacent to the current Katungul facility, has continued to be pursued, with the consultant having discussions with the owner's lawyer. Despite being informed that the owner was willing to sell, communications with the lawyer have not progressed and the restaurant, which had been empty for years, has just been leased for three years and is now operating as a Thai restaurant.

Another option was investigated, a number of commercially owned vacant blocks at 22-24 Princes Highway, nearly adjacent to the current AMS building. NSW Health had the land valued at \$650,000 but the owner wanted \$1.2 million for the site. The consultant made an offer which was rejected.

Riverside Drive

The primary risk to the acquisition of the site remains the Aboriginal Land Claim which has been lodged on the site by the Wagonga Local Aboriginal Lands Council (Wagonga), which would need to be withdrawn before the land could be acquired by NSW Health.

Despite the meeting in November where the Chairperson of Wagonga indicated that the claim would be withdrawn, no progress was made during this reporting period.

On 23 June 2011 the CEO of Katungul wrote to the Chairperson of Wagonga outlining Katungul's situation, the lack of available land in Narooma, and the efforts gone to, to secure a site for a new AMS to provide services to the community.

Conclusion

The project continues to progress slowly, largely due to the lack of suitable sites in and around Narooma and the complexity of dealing with Wagonga. At 1 July 2011 we are waiting on Wagonga's response to Katungul's communication. No Commonwealth funding provided to NSW Health for this project has been expended to date.