

Report 00.696

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Report to Wellington Regional Council
from Margaret Shields, Acting Chairperson

Chairman's Report

1. Local Government New Zealand

- a) Review of the Local Government Act. I am pleased to report the Government's continued commitment to putting a new Act in place. As the Minister has commented, the timeframe is extremely tight, but there is now a clear demonstration of the Government's commitment having filtered through to officials with joint Central Government/Local Government working groups underway. I note that Mr Allard is a Local Government representative on two of the six groups.
- b) A Zone 4 meeting took place on Wednesday, 23 August. Stuart Macaskill and I have previously spoken of the main discussion and resolutions from that meeting.
- c) **Nominations for President and Regional Sector Group.** See nomination forms attached. (**Attachment 1**). I will report orally on this matter.
- d) **Other matters.** There is a general settling down now following the resignation of the Presidential Team. I chair the transitional committee and the various major projects are underway. Eric Millar (ex CEO of Hastings District) is on board as the Acting CEO on 26 September. A meeting of members is to be held on either 22 November or 7 March. We are asked to give our view. My recommendation is that such a meeting should be held in March by when there should be substantial progress on the reforms.

Recommendation

That the Wellington Regional Council advise Local Government New Zealand that the members' meeting should be held in March 2001.

2. **SOLGM Conference**

I attended the SOLGM Conference along with Councillors Gibson and Thomas. I will invite them to make any comments they wish. For my part, I welcomed the chance to catch-up with a number of officers and councillor colleagues and found some of the overseas presentations quite thought provoking.

3. **The New Zealand Festival**

I note that Alex Reedijk has been appointed Executive Director of the Festival in succession to Carla von Zon. We should congratulate him on his appointment. It will be a hard act to follow as the Festival injected a total value added to the Wellington economy of \$23.5 million. The Tattoo will be the main reason for a reasonable direct financial surplus. It need hardly be said that the Tattoo would not have been here without the Regional Stadium.

4. **Regional Economic Development**

Along with others, I attended, and indeed spoke at the launch of the SUG report. Francis Small and his team have taken the concept of a regional entity a step further. I will be interested to see where it goes from here. The matter appears substantively in the Policy and Finance Agenda.

5. **Flood Protection Policy**

I attach a letter just received from the Deputy Auditor-General (**Attachment 2**). The letter results from a complaint received concerning our Flood Protection Funding Policy.

As you will see no further action will be taken in relation to the complaints, so I trust the matter ends there.

I take note of the comments regarding our providing greater specificity between the funding policy and its application for each scheme. I shall personally take a great interest to ensure that we do so in future.

Recommendation

That the Report be received and the contents noted.

MARGARET SHIELDS
Acting Chairperson

Attachment 1: Nomination forms for President and Regional Sector Group

Attachment 2: Letter from Office of the Controller and Auditor-General