

16 February 2001

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- M E M O R A N D U M -

TO: Zone 4

FROM: Peter Winder, Chief Executive, *Local Government New Zealand*

SUBJECT: **Conference 2001**

The invitation you received to host the *Local Government New Zealand* Conference in July outlines some possibilities for taking advantage of the hosting opportunity to 'showcase' your own city/districts. A key possibility is the suggestion that each of the seminars be hosted by a council within the Zone 4 family.

This paper provides a rough outline of the proposed content of the Conference, including the seminars, to better enable you to decide if this idea is feasible or not.

Theme

The Conference theme is integral to the overall programme and content development. *Local Government New Zealand* has confirmed the theme for this year's Conference to be:

“Elective Surgery – Changing the Face of Local Government”.

This is largely to **recognise** the importance and potential impact of the legislative review (particularly to emphasise the fact the local government has been pushing for these changes) and is intended to be a pun on it being 'election year'.

This theme enables us to develop some fresh and memorable promotion and marketing opportunities around, what could be seen by many, as a boring subject.

Programme

Generally the Conference programme is unable to be **finalised** until core keynote speakers (such as the Prime Minister) have confirmed their attendance or not. Therefore the proposal outlined below is still very much in draft at this stage but will provide a flavour of the likely 'look' of the Conference.

Within the programme there always needs to be room for sponsors **and/or** awards and so these would be built in to break up the other activity. This draft outline does not account for this at this stage.

Please note that since the whole theme of the Conference is geared towards 'change' and particularly the legislative reviews. It is intended that much of the plenary session will focus on this and will include an 'open forum' session, therefore, it is unlikely that a seminar will also be required on all the reviews. However, this still remains open for discussion.

Your comments are appreciated.

The final decision on content rests with the Conference Policy Committee. Zone 4 is invited to have a representative on this Committee.

Monday 16 July

- Formal welcomes
- PM or Minister of Local Government
- Keynote address- relevant to the theme but also provocative, challenging and enlightening (someone who can pull in the crowds?)
- Celebrity Debate – “Will Legislative Liposuction Do It?” (one side with Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer, Hon **Michael Cullen** and Zone 4 rep and one side with Richard Prebble, Roger Kerr and Zone 4 rep)
- Update on reviews
- Open Forum - comments and questions from the floor (Chaired by President with Peter Hughes, Department of Internal Affairs Chief Executive)

Formal Conference dinner - The Unkindest Cut of All??

Tuesday 17 July

- Seminars hosted by councils within the Zone 4 family.

These would run concurrently and require the council host to collect delegates at around 8.30 am, take them to the venue, hold the seminar, feed and water them and return them to the main venue. There may be time to organise a 'tiki tour' of your council area of a facility on the return trip.

The seminar ideas we have developed are very much in the early stages of thinking.

There will probably be four – five seminars. Four of significant size (100-120 delegates) and one of smaller size (30-40 delegates).

- 3.00pm - report back to the plenary
- 4.00 pm - keynote speaker
- 4.45 pm – close.

Seminar Ideas

The seminars need to provide opportunity for debate and dialogue. They do not have to reflect the same structure and format as the formal seminars *Local Government New Zealand* runs throughout the year on specific policy matters but should have enough substance to be relevant and valuable.

Unclogging the Arteries

This seminar would focus on transport and infrastructure needs throughout New Zealand. While spending some time on any core policy updates or activity that was required, the participants could also spend time on how to use the new legislation to enable councils to work together more closely and achieve ‘regional’ solutions, What will the developments of the future (next 50-100 years) mean for transport and infrastructure needs?

Fit for the Job

Issues around the challenges of elected governance, the responsibilities and requirements, how the changes to legislation might affect this, increasing the diversity of elected membership, getting people to participate more, exploring options for greater representation eg Youth Councils, citizen’s juries. This could also address dealing with the media.

Instruments of Success – (No Quick Fixes?)

This seminar would look at the ‘tools’ needed to improve performance and capability. Areas covered could be best practice for the Resource Management Act, models for successful collaboration and working together eg economic development, clustering. Are councils prepared for the changes ahead? What will they need to move forward?

Skeleton or Skin -Holding it all Together

This seminar would look at the concept of ‘social cohesion’ and what this means for the new ‘local government’. The content would cover the community and voluntary sectors and even ‘local leadership’ eg Mayors for Jobs. The participants could also showcase and highlight examples of working together with government

agencies to achieve tangible outcomes eg Safer Community Councils, the Heartland initiatives of MSP.

- *'Re-constitutional'*

It would be good to have a seminar that focuses on the perspective of the Maori community and the legislative review. Identifying what the changes will mean for Maori and future generations is important. Also providing some space to network for Maori elected members is always appreciated.

E-medicine

This could cover the issues around e-government and e-commerce. What do internet advances mean for us as councils and as communities. What exactly is e-democracy? Creating an e-savvy country.

Wednesday 18 July

- Sector Group meetings
- AGM

Zone 4 could offer/promote some regional attractions or activities to keep people on the area on the afternoon of Wednesday.

Conclusion

Zone 4 is invited to comment on this draft proposal for the Conference programme. Nothing in here is finalised yet and so your thoughts are very welcome.

Also note that Zone 4 is invited to nominate a representative to go on the Conference Policy Committee whose job it is to make the final decisions about content and programme.