



caring about you & your environment

Report 01.331

18 May 2001

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Report to Wellington Regional Council
from Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. Local Government New Zealand Matters

(a) 2001 Conference

2001 Conference is to be held in Wellington on 16-18 July. The question of WRC representation arises. The Council policy is for it to be represented by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and one other Councillor. I propose that this be Cr Thomas. In addition, some of the Workshops proposed for the Conference will be of interest to Councillors generally and it maybe possible to have additional registrations for particular sessions.

Recommendation

That in addition to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, the Council be represented at the LGNZ Conference 2001 by Cr Thomas.

(b) Zone 4

Together with Cr Shields and Mr Maguire I attended the meeting of the Zone 4 meeting held on Monday, 21 May. The Agenda is attached as (**Attachment 1**) and the full Order Paper is tabled.

Cr Shields and I will report further at the meeting.

Arrangements are in hand for two briefings in this Region of a discussion paper about the Local Government Act and an update on the Funding Powers Review on 9 and 11 July. (The Funding Powers Bill is expected to be introduced into Parliament during June). These Workshops will be held in Carterton on 9 July and Porirua on 11 July.

I will be in touch to arrange the WRC representation at these seminars as soon as possible. In addition, I have asked Cr Shields and Mr Maguire to arrange a Workshop for our Councillors to be updated on these reviews at an early date.

(c) Local Government Forum

The next Central/Local Government Forum, is to be held on the morning of 14 June. Advice has been received that a briefing is being arranged for Managers, Chairs and CEO's at 1pm on the Thursday, 14 June to brief them on the outcome on the morning's forum. I will provide you with further information at the appropriate time.

2. Overseas Study Tour

The report on the Study Tour in Great Britain and Europe by Mr Maguire and myself last September/October is virtually complete. I will be arranging a Briefing for Councillors on our conclusions for early June and providing all Councillors with a copy of the report.

3. Coastal Highway Group

I attach a letter I have received from the Coastal Highway Group concerning their desire to make a presentation to Council on the proposed Transmission Gully development. (**Attachment 2**). You will be aware that this group opposes the Transmission Gully proposal and is seeking improvements on State Highway 1. I am proposing to arrange a Workshop at which the Coastal Highway Group can present their views. At the same time, other interested groups, e.g. Transmac, should be invited also.

I envisage in this instance, the Workshop being open to the public and the members would of course have the right to be present.

4. Animal Health Board: Chairman

The Councillors will be aware that Mr John Dalziell, an Appointee of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee, has been appointed as Chairman of the Animal Health Board. I have send a letter of congratulations to Mr Dalziell on behalf of the Council.

5. Rotary Group Study Exchange Visit

In my report to the Council meeting of 19 April, I reported on a Visit of a Rotary Group from the Lake District in the United Kingdom. The success of the visit can be gauged from the attached letter from Mr Graeme Dick of the Heretaunga Rotary Club (**Attachment 3**). Concerning Mr Dick's comments about the contribution of particular members of our staff, I have conveyed those views to the officers involved.

6. ARC Visit

The visit by the Auckland Regional Council on Monday, 7 May, was in my view very successful. It brought out very clearly the fact that the ARC and ourselves have significant mutual interests and we are both in a different situation to other Regional Councils. Clearly, TranzMetro is a matter of which we need to continue to work very closely in the future and build on the communications that have been established between the Committee Chairs and Managers, particularly in the transport area. In

my view, there would be considerable benefit in this Council visiting the Auckland Region at a future date; most probably in the next triennium. Unless Councillors felt it was more urgent and should be arranged before the Election.

7. Local Government (Elected Member Remuneration and Trading Enterprises) Amendment Bill

Mr Maguire and I recently presented the Regional Council's Submission to Parliament's Environment and Local Government Committee. It is fair to say we had a good hearing and the Select Committee was very interested in our approach to reporting on social and environmental objectives by the CentrePort Company. Explanations on how this has been done were sought by the Select Committee and further information has been provided to it.

8. Civic Assurance

The Regional Council is a shareholder in the above company which will be having its AGM on 27 June 2001. The question of official Council representation at the meeting arises. It is proposed that I represent the Council or in my absence, Cr Margaret Shields as Deputy Chairperson.

Recommendation

That the Wellington Regional Council be represented at the AGM of Civic Assurance by the Council Chairperson or in his absence by the Deputy Chairperson.

9. Leave of Absence

Cr Thomas seeks leave of absence from the Council from 20 June to 5 July 2001.

Recommendation

That Cr Thomas be granted leave of absence as requested.

10. Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors

Cr Shields has received an invitation from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to attend an Asia-Pacific Summit. Copies of the background papers are attached (**Attachment 4**). Cr Shields has accepted the invitation to attend and her travel expenses are being met by ESCAP.

As the focus is on Women Mayors and Councillors, I would propose that the Council meet the cost of her accommodation (6 nights) which is estimated to cost US\$35 per nights while attending the Conference. The location of the Conference will mean that two night's accommodation will be required for travelling to and from the Conference. I would recommend that we resolve to formally appoint Cr Shields to represent the Council and report back matters of interest.

Recommendation

1. *That Cr Shields represent the Council at the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors.*
2. *That Council meet Cr Shields' accommodation costs while attending the Asia-Pacific Summit of Women Mayors and Councillors on 19-22 June 2001 in Thailand.*

Recommendation

That the Report be received.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman

Attachment 1: Zone 4 Agenda
Attachment 2: Letter from Coastal Highway Group
Attachment 3: Letter from Heretaunga Rotary Club
Attachment 4: Asia-Pacific Summit Background papers

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