



Report            **03.422**  
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Committee       **Council**  
Author          **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

## Chairperson's Report

### 1.     **Report on meeting with Roger Sowry, Deputy Leader of the Opposition held on 23 July**

Councillors McDavitt and Buchanan joined me in a visit to Roger Sowry who was representing the Opposition on regional issues. The matters discussed were:

- a)    Urban transport major projects
- b)    Funding gap

There was also some discussion about the way in which the legislation in the transport area was likely to impact. Subsequent, we had considerable amount of discussion about alternative funding methods for roading and other transport projects. Mr Sowry was also concerned to discuss some of the issues concerning the RMA including aquaculture.

In the future it was agreed that if possible Mr Sowry would join the ACT representatives in Wellington, Stephen Franks and Heather Roy, in special briefing meetings to save having a separate meeting for each party.

### 2.     ***Local Government New Zealand***

As you are aware, the *LGNZ* annual conference is take place in Queenstown on 27 – 30 August and will be attended by Crs Aitken, McDavitt and myself. In addition, the Council has sponsored the attendance of one of our Ara Tahī members, Liz Mellish.

As is the usual custom, included within the Conference is a meeting of the Regional Affairs Committee and the Annual General Meeting of *LGNZ*. I will report back on the Conference and meetings at the Council meeting on 5 August.

**3. Mayoral forum and Local Government Leaders' meeting with Regional MPs**

Cr McDavitt represented me at the Mayoral Forum on 24 July and local government leaders' meeting with Regional MPs on 25 July. A variety of topics were included on the agendas for these meetings and I have asked Cr McDavitt to report back verbally on the key points discussed.

**4. Thanks to Colin Wright**

I would like to record my appreciation of the work of Mr Wright in keeping the Council on track over the last month. Colin's efforts have enabled us to effect a smooth transition between chief executives. Of course we will continue to have significant contact with Colin in his role as Divisional Manager, Wairarapa.

**5. Welcome to Barry Harris**

It is with much pleasure that I welcome Mr Harris to his first meeting of Greater Wellington Regional Council. I'm sure that I speak for all Councillors and staff in saying that we look forward to working with Barry and receiving his advice as the Council moves forward with the implementation of its Long Term Council Community Plan.

**6. Recommendation**

*That the report be received.*

Report prepared by:



**Margaret Shields**  
Chairperson