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Committee       Council  
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## Chairman's Report

### 1. Update

A very busy period since my last report but perhaps not a lot to show for it (yet). I attended a number of formal and informal meetings including:

- Local Government New Zealand – Zone 4
- Regional Affairs Committee
- WRS
  - Forum workshop
  - Strategic partners workshop
  - Implementation meeting (Murray McCaw, Graham Spargo)
- Budget briefing on transport
- Kaitoke road opening
- RPS pre-consultation briefings – PCC, WCC and Wairarapa Councils
- Wainuiomata inspection tour
- Awhea Catchment Scheme
- Waiohine River Scheme

Plus all GW committees and sub-committee review meetings.

I have been unable to attend about a dozen Wairarapa catchment and river scheme meetings due to other commitments.

### 2. Wellington Regional Strategy

Councillors have received draft proposals for a possible implementation mechanism for aspects of the strategy directly related to economic growth initiatives. I have talked with all of the Region's Mayors about this proposal

and it will be presented at the WRS Forum workshop on 25 May. I will report back to Councillors on these discussions.

### **3. LTCCP**

The hearing of submissions and subsequent finalisation of the LTCCP has involved a great deal of work for Councillors and senior staff. Managers are to be commended on the presentation of advice on over 400 submissions during a very compressed timeframe. Cr Aitken's highly efficient chairing of the hearings allowed for full consideration of requests made by submitters.

### **4. Centreport**

The Board of Port Investments Ltd (PIL) is expected to consider a request from CentrePort for a further development within the Harbour Quays precinct. This has not yet advanced to the position where PIL has all of the information required for the Board to make a fully informed decision on this. This is expected sometime in early June and the PIL Board will seek the advice of Council before any final sign-off, if that is the decision made.

### **5. Representation Review**

The Sub-Committee report and recommendations are now with Council. My thanks to Cr Shields for running a very thorough process that enabled the conclusions to be reached, and to the Councillors involved for the careful approach to what is always a very sensitive issue. I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by Amy Norrish in providing the analysis and advice that was essential for the Sub-Committee to formulate its recommendations within the scope of the legislation. A job well done by all.

### **6. Budget matters**

A not unexpected major boost in roading funding over the next five years will enable progress on a number of projects in this region. These are all projects previously signalled through the Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC) and the draft Transit State Highway Forecast (SHF). The final SHF is due soon, followed by the 10 year National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) from Land Transport New Zealand. This should see construction start on Dowse/Petone, SH2/SH58 interchange, Muldoon's Corner and perhaps others. What was a little surprising is how the Government proposes to fund the \$1.3 billion additional money allocated over five years. Normal and special dividends from Meridian Energy cover the projected shortfall in the NLTP, and Infrastructure Bond issue covers the advancement of projects not in the NLTP. This is a significant policy shift, first to borrowing for roading, and secondly to servicing this borrowing from outside the National Land Transport Fund. It should be carefully noted that all of this funding is directed to Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) and therefore all projects remain subject to LTNZ funding and priority allocation procedures. The case that senior officers are now preparing for the funding of Transmission Gully remains highly critical for the future of this project. Notwithstanding mention of "investigation" funding in budget announcements, these are prefaced with "such as" and

cannot be read as directives to LTNZ, something governments cannot do under transport legislation. I will lead the political case to the relevant ministers in June, fully backed by the Region's Mayors and MPs.

## **7. Regional Affairs Committee**

This Committee is starting to move towards more co-ordinated political input on a range of strategic national issues that affect all Regional Councils. This extends the good interaction between councils and technical and chief executive levels into direct political engagement with relevant Cabinet Ministers. It is becoming realised that collectively Regional Councils have the potential to have a major influence on issues such as National Policy Statements (NPS), National Environmental Standards (NES), Water Programme of Action, Oceans Policy, National Coastal Policy Statement Review, aquaculture policy, coastal changes, etc. The current focus is on the water programme and possible NPS and NES initiatives being generated by Ministry for the Environment. Jenni Vernon (Environment Waikato) and myself have been nominated for the Government's "leadership group" on this, and the RAC Sub-Committee on water headed by Sir Kerry Burke (and including GW, EW and Horizons) has established an ongoing engagement protocol with the Minister for the Environment. It is hoped that similar initiatives around the other national issues will occur.

## **8. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Chairman