

File: X/26/1/1

14 September 1999

Ms Georgina Beyer  
Mayor of Carterton

Mr Bob Francis  
Mayor of Masterton

Mr John Read  
Mayor of South Wairarapa

Dear

### **Coastal Development**

I enclose, for your information, a copy of the report *Managing the Effects of Subdivision on the Natural Character of the Coastal Environment* that was presented to the Environment Committee of the Wellington Regional Council on 9 September 1999. The Committee's recommendation on the report is included. The same report will also be presented to the Council's Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee on 7 October 1999.

This report was prepared because staff were, quite rightly, bringing the issue to the attention of elected members to gauge the degree of political support in pursuing regional and national policies. The policies are not new and this is not a sudden move or change of position by the Council. Staff were merely seeking support in implementing current policies.

Preservation of the natural character of the coast, and protection of it from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, is a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act 1991. It is required by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 1994, the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region, and by regional and district plans - all of which were subject to intense public consultation and scrutiny.

One of the issues to emerge from staff analysis of the Council's State of the Environment Report for the Region, was the on-going development of the Kapiti Coast and the increasing pressure for development along the Wairarapa coast. Although the State of the Environment Report will not be released until November, it was obvious to staff that this was an issue that needed addressing now.

I urge you also to look at the Environment Committee's recommendation. It does not say that the Council is going to oppose all coastal subdivisions. That is not our intention. We will only oppose any subdivisions or development when we consider that there are unacceptable adverse environmental effects or where the proposal is contrary to the above mentioned policy documents. Any assessment of the effects by us will have to be balanced, sensible and fair. In my opinion, the Council would be failing to carry out its responsibilities, if it did not take the stance indicated in the recommendation.

Perhaps we can all meet to discuss the issue and gain a better understanding of our points of view. Stuart's secretary, Shirley Moore, will be contacting you to arrange a suitable time to meet - she may have already done so.

Yours sincerely

IAN BUCHANAN  
Chairperson, Environment Committee

Encl.