

Report 99.587

6 October 1999

File: E/6/17/2

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Record of the Special Meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Wednesday, 6 October 1999 at 9.45am

Matters for Council Decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box.
Matters for Information of Council are in italic type.

Present

Councillors Macaskill (Chairperson), Allen, Bonner, Buchanan, Gibson, Laidlaw, Long, McDavitt, Shaw, Shields, Turver, Thomas and Werry

Officers Present

Messrs Allard, Benham, Darroch, Maguire, Schollum and Stone

Public Business

Procedural Items

P&F 125 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Chairperson/Cr Shields)

That the apology from Councillor McQueen and the apology for lateness from Councillor McDavitt be confirmed.

Matters for Consideration

P&F 126 Temporary Use of the Gear Island Water Treatment Plant for Petone Water Supply

Report 99.572

File: B/19/6/1

The Chairperson said he had circulated a copy of a letter dated 1 October 1999 from Mayor Terris.

Mr Benham, Divisional Manager, Utility Services summarised the report that he had presented to the Committee.

Mr Benham said that the Gear Island Water Treatment Plant proposal involved obtaining a variation to the Resource Consent and this depended on the parties involved in the earlier consent all agreeing to the variation. The timeframe is expected to be about 8 weeks from the time work starts on the consent application. The time period depended very much on the attitude of the parties involved and a notified decision, if required, would take additional time.

Concerning Clause 9 of the Memorandum of Understanding Mr Benham said that the Hutt City Council is not expected to make a decision on the Petone fluoridation issue until December this year. Should the decision be to continue to supply Petone with unfluoridated water the Regional Council then needed to commence discussions on who pays for the proposal for the permanent solution of water supply to Petone. Mr Benham said they would need to involve additional discussions with Wellington City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and Porirua City Council. Mr Benham said it would be unwise for the Regional Council to enter into an agreement with the Hutt City Council until the financial issues had been resolved.

Moved

(Cr Allen/Cr Buchanan)

That the Policy and Finance Committee recommend to Council that it:

- (1) *Approves providing Petone with unfluoridated water from the Gear Island Water Treatment Plant as soon as practical if Hutt City Council requests unfluoridated water on a permanent basis, subject to:*
 - (a) *Hutt City Council signing the Memorandum of Understanding.*
 - (b) *Resolving the funding issues for permanent changes to the wholesale water supply.*
 - (c) *A funded permanent solution for unfluoridated water not being available within a similar timeframe as the temporary solution.*
- (2) *Notes that one of the conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding is that the Hutt City Council and Wellington Regional Council will share the additional costs of temporarily commissioning and operating Gear Island Pumping Station to enable Petone to receive unfluoridated water.*

- (3) *Notes that Wellington Regional Council's share of the unbudgeted commissioning and operational expenditure for the Gear Island work and ongoing operational costs can be contained within the overall budget allocation.*
- (4) *Notes the temporary use of the Gear Island Water Treatment Plant will cease no later than 31 December 2000.*

Amendment*(Chairperson/Cr Shields)*

That the following words be added to the Resolution (1)(b) above as follows:

“which will involve the Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and the Wellington City Council”.

Carried

The motion as amended was then put and **carried**: viz

Resolved to Recommend**(Cr Allen/Cr Buchanan)**

That the Policy and Finance Committee recommend to Council that it:

- (1) **Approves providing Petone with unfluoridated water from the Gear Island Water Treatment Plant as soon as practical if Hutt City Council requests unfluoridated water on a permanent basis, subject to:**
- (a) **Hutt City Council signing the Memorandum of Understanding.**
- (b) **Resolving the funding issues for permanent changes to the wholesale water supply which will involve the Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and the Wellington City Council.**
- (c) **A funded permanent solution for unfluoridated water not being available within a similar timeframe as the temporary solution.**
- (2) **Notes that one of the conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding is that the Hutt City Council and Wellington Regional Council will share the additional costs of temporarily commissioning and operating Gear Island Pumping Station to enable Petone to receive unfluoridated water.**
- (3) **Notes that Wellington Regional Council's share of the unbudgeted commissioning and operational expenditure for the Gear Island work and ongoing operational costs can be contained within the overall budget allocation.**
- (4) **Notes the temporary use of the Gear Island Water Treatment Plant will cease no later than 31 December 2000.**

Councillor Thomas dissented.

P&F 127 **Elected Members' Remuneration Submission**

Report 99.573

File: E/5/2/3

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr Turver/Cr Allen)

That the Council approve the attached Submission to the Department of Internal Affairs on the remuneration of elected members subject to any editorial corrections.

Councillor Gibson dissented. He advised the meeting that he had made a personal submission to the Department of Internal Affairs.

Councillor McDavitt arrived at 10.45am.

P&F 128 **Economic Wealth in the Greater Wellington Region and the Olympics Opportunity**

Report 99.574

File: CP/4/2/1

Moved

(Chairperson/Cr Shields)

That the Committee recommends that the Council:

- (1) Notes that the Local Government Act or other legislation does not permit the Council to contribute to an economic development initiative, such as that proposed by the Wider Wellington Olympics Trade Focus Group.*
- (2) Resolves that the Local Government Act is overly restrictive in respect of the role of regional councils to support economic development and that appropriate steps be taken to advocate for legislative change.*
- (3) Notes that officers will report further on economic development issues to Policy and Finance Committee on 2 November 1999.*

Amendment

(Cr Turver/Cr Shaw)

That the word "urgently" be added to the Resolution (2) so that it reads as follows:

"Resolves that the Local Government Act is overly restrictive in respect of the role of regional councils to support economic development and that appropriate steps urgently be taken to advocate for legislative change"

Carried

Amendment

(Cr Buchanan/Cr Long)

That the Committee recommends that the Council, subject to legal advice, resolves to request the Directors of Port Investments Ltd to consider making available \$350,000 for the purpose of supporting the WRC/WWOTFG regional economic trade opportunities and initiatives“.

The above amendment was put and **carried** 7 votes in favour and 6 opposed after a division as follows:

	Ayes		Noes
Councillors	Allen	Councillors	Laidlaw
	Bonner		Macaskill
	Buchanan		McDavitt
	Gibson		Shaw
	Long		Shields
	Turver		Thomas
	Werry		

Amendment

(Cr Gibson/Cr Thomas)

That the following clauses be added to the above motion as follows:

- (5) *Encourages our representative on the CentrePort Board to consult the Audit Office as to whether a contribution by CentrePort to the wider Wellington Olympics Trade Focus Group would attract “very close scrutiny” (see Page 3 of Report 99.574) or if it could legitimately contribute on the basis of “a direct interest in the economic growth in the region” as indicated in Simpson Grierson’s letter dated 4 October 1999.*
- (6) *Subject to audit advice further encourages our representative on the CentrePort Board urgently to promote the making of a suitable contribution to the Wider Wellington Olympics Trade Focus Group.*

Lost

Councillor Turver left at 11.20am.

The motion as amended was then put and **carried**: viz

Resolved to Recommend**(Chairperson/Cr Shields)****That the Committee recommends that the Council:**

- (1) Notes that the Local Government Act or other legislation does not permit the Council to contribute to an economic development initiative, such as that proposed by the Wider Wellington Olympics Trade Focus Group.**
- (2) Resolves that the Local Government Act is overly restrictive in respect of the role of regional councils to support economic development and that appropriate steps urgently be taken to advocate for legislative change.**
- (3) Subject to legal advice resolves to request the Directors of Port Investments Ltd to consider making available \$350,000 for the purpose of supporting the WRC/WWOTFG regional economic trade opportunities and initiatives.**
- (4) Notes that officers will report further on economic development issues to Policy and Finance Committee on 2 November 1999.**

The meeting closed at 11.25am.

Cr S A MACASKILL
Chairperson

Date: