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Report to the Environment Committee
from Councillor Mike Gibson, Deputy Chairperson, Environment Committee

Port Company – Environmental/Heritage Issues

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is threefold:

- (i) to consider the initiatives taken in the last year with regard to the environmental responsibilities of the Port Company (now called CentrePort Limited) noting that the Council owns 77% of that Company and that the balance of 23% is also in community ownership;
- (ii) to consider these initiatives in the light of the responses of the Port Company to communications which it has received from the Council; and
- (iii) to consider any further matters, including some necessary initiatives on heritage matters, which clearly arise because of the Council's Exit Strategy from its ownership of the Port Company.

2. Background

1. As a result of instructions from the Council given on 3 August 1999, its Chairperson, Councillor Stuart Macaskill, conveyed "community concerns" to the Directors of the Port Company regarding "the potential future use of the Kaiwharawhara reclamation."
2. Councillor Macaskill further suggested that: *"... the Directors might also wish to add into the draft Statement of Corporate Intent the company's intention to continue to act as a good corporate citizen through meeting its environmental obligations."*
3. In respect of the Statement of Corporate Intent the Directors of the Port Company responded by including, for the very first time, a reference to the environment.
4. This reference was shown under the heading "Nature and Scope of Activities to be Undertaken" and involved the addition of the following:

"2.6 To operate in an environmentally responsible manner."

5. With regard to the Kaiwharawhara Reclamation a “Briefing Paper” (**Attachment 1**) has been sent to the Council’s Chief Financial Officer, Mr Greg Schollum, and circulated by means of the weekly Councillors’ Information Bulletin with a covering note from Mr Schollum dated 28 June 2000.
6. With regard to any formal accounting it was noticed by Committee members that the Port Company’s Chief Executive, Mr Ken Harris, had been quoted in at least one local newspaper as announcing that the Port Company’s Board had begun to consider the introduction of “triple bottom-line accounting” as a modern method of accounting for environmental matters as well as those involving social responsibilities and finance.
7. The Environment Committee responded to this news at its 6 April 2000 meeting as follows:

“Resolved *(Cr Gibson/Cr Buchanan)*
‘That the Board of Centreport Ltd be commended for initiating a method of formally accounting for the environment and invites the Board to develop their proposals in conjunction with the environmental staff of the Regional Council.’”
8. As a result of this Committee resolution our Committee Chairperson wrote to the Port Company’s Chairman, Mr Nigel Gould, on 11 April 2000. The Port Company’s Chief Executive, Mr Ken Harris, replied on 22 May 2000. These two letters are attached as **Attachment 2**.
9. On 8 April 1999 the Council had considered in Public-Excluded Business a Report entitled “Port Wellington Limited – Development of an Exit Strategy” and agreed that an edited version of the Report and Exit Strategy be prepared for public release.
10. The edited version of the Council’s Report and Exit Strategy from the Port Company is attached (**Attachment 3**) and puts into context the environmental and heritage concerns of the Council which has been elected to serve in this triennium.

3. **Heritage**

1. At the last meeting of the Environment Committee some most uncustomary independent comment on the Council’s recent record with regard to heritage matters was tabled.
2. Reference was also made to the submission of Wellington City Council which had been considered by the Regional Council in connection with our Draft Annual Plan and Long-term Financial Strategy.
3. WCC’s submission stated, under the heading “Heritage,” that: *“The City Council is concerned that the remaining heritage features in the port area of the waterfront are appropriately protected. The City Council wishes to see this*

achieved either through the Regional Council's ownership interest in the Port Company, or the Regional Coastal Plan, and request (sic) that adequate funding be allocated to assess heritage and developing the necessary plans to ensure protection."

4. It was suggested at the Committee's last meeting (and previously at the Council) that the Council should ask WCC for details of what was contemplated by WCC's use of the phrase "*the remaining heritage features in the port area.*"
5. In the meantime a "Briefing Paper" on **Shed 31 (Attachment 4)** has been received by the Council and circulated to Councillors by our Chief Financial Officer, Mr Greg Schollum, through the medium of a Councillors' Information Bulletin with a covering note from Mr Schollum dated 28 June 2000.
6. The situation regarding **Shed 31** and the apologetic nature of the "Briefing Paper" might be **noted**.

4. **Communications**

1. A media statement could be prepared for the Council's consideration showing our reaction to the Port Company's attitude towards its environmental and heritage responsibilities.
2. It would be appropriate to recommend to the Council that the publication of such a media statement should involve the giving of reassurances to the community that satisfactory environmental and heritage safeguards would be in place before the Council proceeded further with its Exit Strategy for the Port Company.

5. **Recommendations**

1. *That this report and its four attachments be received.*
2. *That a satisfactory liaison with Wellington City Council regarding its heritage concerns in the port area be established.*
3. *That a draft press statement along the lines indicated above be prepared for the consideration of the Council.*

Report prepared by:

MIKE GIBSON, Councillor
Environment Committee Deputy Chairperson