THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Report to Wellington Regional Council
from Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. *Local Government New Zealand* Matters

(a) *Local Government New Zealand* Conference

(i) I have received a letter from the Chief Executive of *Local Government New Zealand* together with a Certificate thanking the Council for its support. Mr Winder's letter is attached as **Attachment 1**.

(ii) The General Manager has also received a letter from Sue Piper, Chair of Zone 4 and a copy of that letter is attached as **Attachment 2**.

(b) Zone 4 Meeting

Councillor Shields and I will report orally on the meeting of Zone 4 held at Kapiti Coast District Council on Monday, 20 August.

(c) Local Government (Rating) Bill

Copies of various papers concerning this Bill, which has now been introduced into Parliament, have been circulated in the Bulletin.

A Workshop is planned and a formal report to consider a proposed WRC submission to the Parliament's Environment Select Committee is proposed for the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 27 September.

A key feature of the Bill is that it proposes Regional Councils having the same rating powers as Territorial Authorities.

Local Government New Zealand and SOLGM are arranging a series of regional seminars about the Bill. One, for the southern North Island, is being held in Palmerston North on Monday, 3 September. Mr Maguire will be involved.

These seminars are open to both elected members and officials. The question of attendance of interested members of this Council should be considered by Council.

2. Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) Conference

The annual Conference of the Society of Local Government Managers is being held in Wellington from 9-11 September. I have received an invitation for elected members to attend most of the Conference (the Society's AGM is only open to its members). Several Councillors, including myself, Councillors Shields, Gibson, Laidlaw and Thomas have expressed interest in attending.

3. Biodiversity Workshop

The Ministry for the Environment has asked the WRC to host a biodiversity workshop for the Wellington Region. (The nearest other workshops are in Stratford and St Arnaud!). The workshop is to be held in Masterton on Monday, 17 September. An invitation has also been made to Cr Buchanan to act as Chair and to talk about WRC initiatives. This is in keeping with a suggested format, which is to provide a brief overview of regional initiatives and then for the Ministry to outline progress on national initiatives, including the proposed national policy statement.

Recommendation

That the Council accept the invitation to host the Masterton workshop and agree to Cr Buchanan acting as Chair.

4. Transmission Gully Briefings

Arrangements have been made for briefings by the Coastal Highway Group and TRANSMAC (Transmission Gully Action Committee) on their views for upgrading State Highway One. The briefing will be at 1.30pm following the Council meeting and will be open to the media.

5. Final Meetings

We are about to have our final round of Committee meetings for this triennium. There is a procedural matter relating to confirmation of minutes of those meetings.

Standing Order 32 concerns the minutes of the last meetings before the Elections and states that:

"The Chairperson and General Manager shall be responsible for confirming the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting prior to the next election of members." (In this case the Chairperson refers to the Chairperson of the Committee).

Before minutes of those meetings are confirmed, draft copies will be circulated to all Councillors and Committee Members through the Bulletin, so each has the opportunity to make comment on the accuracy, or otherwise, of the final minutes.

Recommendation

That the Report be received .

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman

Attachment 1:   **Letter from the Chief Executive of Local Government New Zealand**
Attachment 2:   **Letter from Chair of Zone 4**

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