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**Report 02.456**

1 August 2002

File: E/6/1/5

MKS/ChairRep

Report to Wellington Regional Council  
from Margaret Shields, Chairperson

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **1. *Local Government New Zealand Conference***

Together with Councillors McDavitt, Yardley and Laidlaw, Mr Stone and Dr Hastie, I attended the *Local Government New Zealand* Conference. The Conference was well attended by Councillors from across the country, and in the usual manner provided excellent opportunities for networking in addition to the formal programme. There was general acknowledgement that the Conference was a success and that local government is in good health.

Recognition of the important role played by local government was highlighted by the attendance of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark and Leader of the National Party, Hon Bill English, so soon after the election. Of note was the Prime Minister's intention to continue a strong partnership with local government.

I will comment further on the Conference at the meeting and invite other members who attended to give their views.

### **2. *Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting***

The Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of *Local Government New Zealand* was held during the *LGNZ* Conference. Basil Morrison, Mayor Hauraki District Council, had been declared elected on 28 May 2002. I had been nominated to stand for the single Vice President position and, following a vote, was fortunate to be elected to this position at the AGM. I'm pleased that this will allow me to continue with the important work that I have been part of, particularly in chairing the *LGNZ* Working Party on the Local Government Bill.

Copies of the Business Papers from the meeting have been placed in the Councillor's Lounge, and the minutes will be circulated when they become available.

### 3. **Regional Affairs Committee**

The Regional Affairs Committee also met during the *LGNZ* Conference. Presentations were made on the purpose and functions provisions of the Local Government Bill. One key theme to emerge was the need to foster a co-operative working environment.

Copies of the papers from the meeting have been placed in the Councillors' Bulletin, and minutes will be circulated when they become available.

### 4. **Meeting with Mr Riddiford**

In his submission on the 2002 Update to the Annual Plan, Mr Dan Riddiford had requested a private interview with the Council Chairperson. I agreed to the interview and we met on 18 July together with Mr Robin Gunston, an investor in the Te Awaitei Aquaculture Park proposal, and Dr Hastie.

Messrs Riddiford and Gunston outlined their proposals and concerns they had over the resource consent process. Following discussion, they agreed to provide additional information on their proposal to the Council, and we agreed to review notification decisions and costs based on the new information received. We also undertook to review the potential receipt of an aquaculture application prior to the current moratorium coming into effect.

### 5. **Change of meeting dates**

Councillors will be well aware of the number of workshops being held as part of the development of our new Long Term Financial Strategy. Accommodating these workshops while avoiding clashes with other meetings and obligations of Councillors is a challenging task and I ask that Councillors be tolerant of any changed dates that become necessary. One such change that is necessary is to reschedule the Passenger Transport Committee meeting originally set down for Thursday 21 November 2002 to Monday 18 November 2002. This change is being made to allow Special Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee and Council meetings regarding the LTFS to be held on Thursday 21 November 2002.

### **Recommendation**

*That the Regional Council:*

- (1) *Approve the rescheduling of the Passenger Transport Committee meeting from 21 November 2002 to 18 November 2002.*
- (2) *Note that there will be Special Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee and Council meetings on 21 November 2002.*

### 6. **Recent Event**

Councillors may have noted in the news media the part that some of our staff played in the apprehension of the three people charged with the planning of a kidnapping in central Wellington.

## 7. **E-Local Government Forum**

*LGNZ is holding a National Forum on e-local government on 20 August 2002. Details of the forum will be circulated in the Councillors' Bulletin. It may be appropriate that up to two Councillors attend this forum which is to be held in Wellington. Any Councillor who is interested in attending should contact me before 12 July.*

### **Recommendation**

*That the Regional Council authorise the Chairperson to nominate up to two Councillors to attend the LGNZ National Forum on e-local government.*

### **Recommendation**

*That the Report be received.*

MARGARET SHIELDS  
Chairperson