

# WESTPAC TRIEST STADIUM

WELLINGTON REGIONAL  
STADIUM TRUST  
LEVEL 10  
COLONIAL BUILDING  
117 CUSTOMHOUSE QUAY  
PO BOX 2080  
WELLINGTON

**Stuart Macaskill  
Chairman  
Wellington Regional Council  
PO Box 11646  
Wellington**

**30 April 1999**

**Dear Stuart**

**This is a report on the contribution of the Trustees of the Wellington Regional Stadium Trust, as requested.**

**As you know the Trustees are actually the same people who worked as the advisory committee when the Wellington City Council first looked at building a multi-purpose stadium some years ago. Most of them have been involved with the stadium project for about five years now and there is absolutely no doubt that if it were not for their dedication and commitment the project would never have proceeded.**

**Paul Collins, Bill Bimie, David Wale and Bryan Johnson have all been intimately involved with the financial structuring of the project. They have used their personal networks in the business community to the benefit of the stadium and have been invaluable in their business advice and knowledge of project financing. They have also actively used their networks to sell corporate boxes and memberships and each of them has been most generous personally with both time and money.**

**Sue Elliott has been of great value with her advice on communications. Together with our paid contractor, Iain Morrison, she has run a spectacularly successful PR campaign which has built up overwhelming public support for the project. The time being put in by Sue was so major that last year the other Trustees insisted that we pay her for her professional services, a situation allowed for under the Trust Deed. In fact, her invoices have been very modest and, like the rest of the Trustees, she continues to put in a huge amount of personal time.**

**Ron Scott has made a major contribution in terms of his knowledge of sports venues and the needs of sporting codes. Particularly when discussing some of the many complex details of the construction project, he has been of immense value. While others on the Trust are sports fanatics and know what**

it's. like to watch a game in many different venues, Ron knows the places from the ground up and has generously passed this knowledge on to the Trust.

As you know, Ngatata Love was invited to sit on the Trust Board because we wanted to have a close working relationship with the Tenth Trust. This has proved very helpful in a number of areas and I know that the last few years have been much easier to navigate because of Ngatata's active support and interest. The partnership with the Tenth Trust is a very vital one for us and will extend to employment of staff when the stadium opens.

The Trustees of the stadium have worked tirelessly in a "hands on" role for this project. The simple fact is that they are all very passionate about it – if they hadn't have been, they simply could not have sustained the demands on their time and energy over the last five years. This is not a normal board. For example, for the greater part of the time the trustees have worked on it, they have done so alone. It is only in the last two years that a CEO and, later on, staff, have been employed.

Sometimes Trustees, because of business commitments, are not able to attend monthly Trust meetings, but these short formal meetings are not where the real work has been done. Trustees all continue to spend many hours a month in discussion and negotiation on behalf of the project and I know that at times they have made their contributions at great personal expense and inconvenience.

The stadium simply would not have been built without this team. I strongly recommend that these appointments be continued for the next twelve months to give the project the final support it requires from the Trustees who know it so intimately. After that, I know that a number of us will be wanting to gracefully retire and go to the stadium as patrons, satisfied with a job well done.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fran Wilde', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Hon. Fran Wilde  
Chair