

## **Report 00.19**

File: E/6/1/5 (hp)

27 January 2000

Report to Wellington Regional Council  
From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **1. Happy New Year**

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to this first meeting of the new millennium.

As you are only too well aware, we are going to have a very challenging and exciting year.

#### **2. Local Government New Zealand: Zone 4 National Council Representative**

Consequent of the election of Mayor Georgina Beyer to Parliament, as you are aware nominations to fill the vacancy was sought before Christmas and only one nomination, Mayor John Read of South Wairarapa District Council has been appointed unopposed. The Regional Council has not been directly involved in making a nomination because its separately represented on the Local Government National Council (by Councillor Margaret Shields). I have sent a suitable letter of congratulations to Mayor Read.

#### **3. Ara Tahi**

Councillors will recall the efforts made last year to further enhance our relationship with the tangata whenua in the Region. Councillors agreed in principle to a series of proposed actions, and these were presented to the Ara Tahi meeting on 2 December 1999. Ara Tahi accepted the proposals, subject to further discussions about the appointment of an additional Iwi liaison officer.

Subsequently, Council has authorised the attendance of the Deputy Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Environment Committee at each meeting of Ara Tahi.

The question of other Councillors also attending, they should also be welcome to attend all meetings. However, as with attendance at one of our Committee meetings of which a Councillor is not a member, there would be full opportunity to speak but there would be no entitlement to meeting allowances.

#### 4. **Liaison with Regional Members of Parliament**

A copy of a letter from Mr Graham Kelly, MP for Mana (Bulletin 21 January) advises that he will now be convening the Wellington Regional MP's Group. Hon Annette King has asked him to take charge because of her increased responsibilities as Cabinet Minister.

I have sent a letter of appreciation to Hon Annette King for her very good work in building up the very positive linkages between Regional Councillors and Regional Members of Parliament. She assures us she will be making every effort to continue to attend our meetings.

It seems to me we have a group of Members of Parliament who are very keen to continue to have a close working arrangement with the Regional Council.

Mr Kelly certainly has been fulsome in praise of the meetings and I am sure he will be a very effective link between the two groups. He will be meeting Cr Shields and me on Monday next to discuss some new arrangements and it is anticipated that the first meeting with the Members of Parliament from the Wellington Region, will take place during February. I will report further at the Council meeting.

#### 5. **Meeting Timetable for Year 2000 – Transport Committee**

Mr Maguire's memorandum of 17 December in the Information Bulletin advises, that after discussions with Cr McDavitt, it was proposed to change the meeting timetables for the Passenger Transport and Regional Land Transport Committees.

The proposed change swaps some of the two Committee's Meeting's originally agreed dates. Because this changes the previous Council decision, the new dates should be approved by Council. The revised timetable now proposed is:

<u>Passenger Transport Committee</u>	<u>Regional Transport Committee</u>
9 February 2000	30 March 2000
11 May 2000	20 June 2000
20 July 2000	31 August 2000
12 October 2000	23 November 2000

Also as advised in the Bulletin, a National Transport forum is to be held on 31 March 2000.

### **Recommendation**

*That Council approve the changed meeting dates for the Passenger Transport and Regional Land Transport Committees.*

## **6. Local Government Commission Annual Report**

A copy of the Local Government Commission's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 1999 to the House of Representatives is tabled. There are no matters raised in the report that are directly relative to the Wellington Regional Council.

## **7. Transport Committees – Wellington City Council Representation**

Consequent of Sue Kedgley being elected to Parliament, she has resigned as a Wellington City Councillor. She represented Wellington City Council at meetings of our Passenger Transport and Regional Land Transport Committees.

Advice has now been received that at the City Council meeting of 15 December 1999 it was agreed that:

- (a) *Councillor Foster be appointed as the Wellington City Council representative to the Wellington Regional Council Passenger Transport Committee; and*
- (b) *That Councillor Hutchings be appointed as the Wellington City Council representative to the Wellington Regional Council Regional Land Transport Committee.*

## **8. Councillor Shields**

Cr Shields is planning to holiday in the United Kingdom and Europe during April. While away, she plans to see something of Local Government in London and Italy.

In London, she proposes to look, over two to three days, at issues of interest in the transport area. (The British High Commissioner, Mr Martin Williams is setting up some appointments for Cr Shields).

In Italy, this would entail three days and two nights plus travel. There are very good regional government examples near where Cr Shields will be visiting and the opportunity to look at a notable one of these, in Bologna, is too good to be

missed. (Those who were previously on the Council, will recall Dr Robert Putnam's studies on regional government in Italy and his briefings on this subject when in Wellington).

Cr Shields will be meeting her own travel costs. However, I would strongly recommend that Council meet any "out of pocket" expenses incurred in relation to these studies and meet her accommodation and related transport costs in London and Italy while undertaking this. This would be on the basis of reimbursement of actual and reasonable expenses on her return.

STUART MACASKILL  
Chairman