

Report 00.248

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Report to the Wellington Regional Council
From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. Margaret Shields

I note that we have had two postcards from Margaret showing that she has made it as far as London and Israel, even if she can't afford to eat!

2. Meeting with Regional MP's

The next meeting will be held at Parliament on 26 May. I believe that we should take the opportunity to brief the MP's on the water integration proposals which now appear to be returning to the agenda and the Western Corridor Implementation Plan. Please would Councillors advise me of any other items that should be included for discussion.

3. Cabinet Ministers

I am aware that we have had separate meetings with Hon Mark Gosche and Hon Marian Hobbs. As I was not present at these meetings, I would ask Councillors McDavitt and Buchanan to report on any items they may wish to draw to our attention.

4. Economic Development

I see that it is very much becoming the topic of the moment. The Hon Jim Anderton is coming on Friday, 14 April to talk with the Region's Mayors and CEO's on the Government's initiatives. There was also a meeting at Parliament when the question of some form of a regional economic body was discussed. I understand that the proposal from the meeting is that an establishment group should be set up which would be charged with looking at the purpose of such an economic entity, how it might be structured, funded and so on.

5. **South African Visit**

I would like to thank the General Manager and staff, plus relevant Councillors, for their support in making the visit of the Unicity Committee of Durban, South Africa, a very successful event. We have received very positive feedback from the group thanking us for our support.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of Philip Van Dyk with this event and note with some regret from the Council's perspective, but delight for Philip personally, that he has been invited to work in the office of the Prime Minister on arts and cultural matters, which I understand are dear to his heart.

6. ***Local Government New Zealand Annual Conference***

Local Government New Zealand Conference will be occurring on 10-12 July 2000. The Council is entitled to three representatives and traditionally that has been the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and one other Councillor. I understand that Cr Turver would be interested in attending and would be very happy to propose that Cr Turver be our third representative.

Recommendation

That Cr Turver represent the Council at the Local Government New Zealand Conference being held in Christchurch from 10-12 July 2000.

7. **Attendance at the Redesigning Resources Conference**

The General Manager advises me that he and Dr Bradbury will be attending this Conference. I believe that the Chair of the Environment Committee should also attend. I am therefore nominating Cr Buchanan to attend on behalf of the Council.

Recommendation

That Cr Buchanan attend the Redesigning Resources Conference to be held in Christchurch from 25-27 June 2000.

8. **Absence**

Cr Ian Buchanan will be travelling overseas leaving on 17 May and not returning to New Zealand until 9 June. He should now be formally granted leave of absence.

Recommendation

That Cr Buchanan be granted leave of absence from 17 May until 9 June.

9. **Thanks**

I would like to express my appreciation of the work of Cr McQueen in Chairing the Council over the last two weeks. I hear that Euan brought his usual professionalism to the role.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman