

Report 00.869

29 November 2000

File: E/6/1/5

Report to Wellington Regional Council
from Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. *Local Government New Zealand*

(1) Vice Presidency

As you are aware, Cr Margaret Shields has just been elected a Vice-President of *Local Government New Zealand*. Councillors will join me in formally congratulating Margaret.

(2) Zone 4

Cr Shields and I, together with Mr Maguire, attended a meeting of Zone 4 on 20 November. The agenda for the meeting was circulated in the bulletin and the formal minutes will be tabled. I will comment further at the meeting.

(3) Future Focus Meeting

As previously advised, *Local Government New Zealand* organised a Future Focus meeting on 22 November. Council was represented by myself together with Crs Margaret Shields and Mike Gibson. Ted Maguire also attended. The main aim of the meeting was to obtain feedback from members of possible changes to the Association's Constitution and future direction.

The need to review these matters arose from the events culminating in the resignations of the previous Presidential team. It was also an opportunity for the new President to meet with representatives of Councils and to introduce the Chief Executive Designate, Mr Peter Winder.

There was also a very useful report from the recent central Government Local Government Forum.

What was very clear to me, was there was no call for major change. In fact, some of the recent vocal critics were remarkably silent. Any necessary constitutional changes, given the general direction of the meeting, will need to be developed

and formally considered by membership at the AGM of *Local Government New Zealand* in July next year.

Councillors Shields and Gibson may wish to comment also.

The background papers had been previously circulated to Councillors through the Information Bulletin.

2. “Town and Country”

I was very pleased to attend the launch of a book “Town and Country” that commemorates the story of the Local Government sector and its central organisations. “Town and Country” was published by *Local Government New Zealand* and Civic Assurance. The Council has received a complimentary copy which is tabled. It will be placed in our library where it can be accessed by interested Councillors.

3. Kerry Hoggard

I would like to record with you my appreciation to Kerry Hoggard for the enormous contribution he has made to floodplain management planning on the Kapiti Coast.

Kerry was an independent and honorary chairman of the Kapiti Floodplain Management Committee, from its inception in 1992 until it completed its business and was dissolved in 1998. Kerry’s chairmanship was characterised by the calm, sage and considerate way he dealt with committee members and the public – these qualities pervaded the meetings he ran.

As part of dissolving the Committee, members felt there was a need for the community to have continuing access to the floodplain management plans implementation process. This vision was a catalyst for what we have called the Friends of the River groups. Kerry has, until his recent resignation from the steering committee, taken a major role in establishing the Otaki “Friends” group.

I will arrange an appropriate way to thank Kerry personally.

Recommendation

That Council formally record its appreciation to Mr Kerry Hoggard for the enormous contribution he has made to the Flood Plain Management on the Kapiti Coast.

4. Local Government Commission Report

Tabled is the report of the Local Government Commission for the year ended 30 June 2000 and recently presented to Parliament. There are no matters of particular relevance to this Council in this report.

5. Triennial Review of Constituencies and Membership

As Councillors are aware, a number of appeals and counter objections were lodged concerning the Council’s review of Constituencies and Membership for the 2001 Local Body Elections. Some of the appeals related to an appeal by Porirua City Council seeking inclusion of Tawa in the Wellington Regional Council’s Porirua

Constituency. However, that Council has withdrawn its appeal, thus other appeals on this matter lapses. In the circumstances, there would appear to be five “live” appeals. These are:

- (a) Upper Hutt City Council
- (b) Wellington City Council
- (c) Cr Mike Gibson
- (d) Mr Bryan Weyburne
- (e) Mr Andrew Taylor who opposes the division of the Wellington City into more than one Constituency

Consideration of the appeals is now in the hands of the Local Government Commission and informal advice has been received that it will be holding a Hearing to consider appeals here on Tuesday, 19 December. The LGC has yet to confirm which appellants wish to be heard. Council will need to be represented.

There are two matters that Council should give its consideration to:

- (a) The Wellington City Council’s appeal seeks adjustment of the Lambton Constituency boundaries to coincide with the new boundaries proposed for its Lambton Ward. (Appeals against the Wellington City Council Review decisions will be heard on 18 December).

It will be appreciated that the Regional Council must decide its Constituency boundaries in the existing Ward boundaries of territorial authorities, not the proposed boundaries. The Wellington City Council’s decision on its Ward boundaries, was decided after the Regional Council’s decision.

Secondly, the Local Government Commission’s consideration is *de novo* rather than to simply consider the issues appealed. My understand is that appeals on the Wellington City Council matter relate to the overall size of the Council, so the Commission, if it was of a mind to, could significantly change the City Council’s Ward arrangements.

Having said that, it seems imminently sensible for a Wellington Regional Council Lambton Constituency to coincide with a Wellington City Council Lambton Ward if the latter are confirmed (Legislation requires coincidence “so far as is practicable”). As both are named “Lambton” any other boundaries would inevitably result in confusion among electors. For this reason, it is considered that the Regional Council should support the Constituency boundary change sought by Wellington City Council.

- (b) When the Local Government Commission heard appeals on Wellington Regional Council’s proposed Constituencies for the 1998 Elections, it was represented by the then Chair of our Constituency Review Sub-Committee. In this case, however, because Cr Gibson who chaired the Triennial Review Sub-Committee for this year’s review, has lodged a personal appeal relating to the Council’s decision, it is considered he has a personal interest and it would be inappropriate for him to represent the Council. In the circumstances, I believe it would be appropriate for me to represent the Council, particularly as I will not have a personal interest, in the matter.

Recommendation

- (a) *That Council support the change sought by Wellington City Council to ensure consistency of the boundaries for Wellington Regional Council's Lambton Constituency and Wellington City Council's Lambton Ward.*
- (b) *That Cr Macaskill represent the Council at the Local Government Commission Hearing.*

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and the recommendations adopted.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman