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**Report 02.558**

5 September 2002

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Report to Wellington Regional Council  
from Margaret Shields, Chairperson

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **1. Naming of "The Stuart Macaskill Lakes"**

I was very pleased to be able to participate with other Councillors in the naming ceremony of the Te Marua water supply lakes. Last year the Council resolved to name the lakes "The Stuart Macaskill Lakes" in recognition of Stuart's very significant contributions to the quality water supply enjoyed in metropolitan Wellington. It was pleasing to see a number of former Councillors and staff present as well as some of the consultants involved in the project. The large turnout reflected the high esteem in which we all hold Stuart for his long-term contribution to our community.

### **Recommendation**

*That the Council note that the Te Marua water supply lakes were officially named "The Stuart Macaskill Lakes" on 3 October 2002.*

### **2. Local Government New Zealand Tourism Symposium**

I have approved the attendance of Cr Laidlaw at the *Local Government New Zealand Tourism Symposium* to be held at Christchurch 26/27 September. There is a lot of interest in developing the tourism potential of our regional parks and it is important that we are informed about current issues and developments in this area.

### **3. Local Government New Zealand Zone 4 Meeting**

Cr McDavitt and I attended the *Local Government New Zealand Zone 4 meeting* held at Porirua City Council on 19 August 2002. A copy of the minutes from the meeting and attached presentation material has been included in the Councillors' Information Bulletin.

#### 4. **Higher Salaries Commission**

Together with the Council Secretary I presented the key points from the Council's submission on remuneration to the Higher Salaries Commission. We received a positive response from the Commission who appears to have taken on board many of the concerns that have been raised throughout the country. Understanding the varied roles of regional councils has been one particular challenge for the Commission and I hope that our presentation assisted in this regard. A key message that we took from the presentation was that while the Commission will ultimately determine remuneration for all Councillors, there will be considerable flexibility for Councils to put proposals to them that reflect their particular circumstances.

The Commission indicated that it hoped to have a further proposal on remuneration out by Christmas and that they will deal with expenses in the New Year.

#### 5. **Reporting on WRC Holdings Group Meetings**

In response to a question from Cr Thomas at the Special Meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Meeting on 6 August, officers agreed to identify a means of informing Councillors of the outcome from WRC Holdings Group Meetings.

The mechanism that officers have proposed and that I support is that the Councillors present at the meeting report back to Council in a similar way that we report back from Ara Tahi, the Wellington Conservation Board and so on.

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Council request that the Councillors who represent the Council on the Board of WRC Holdings Limited report back to the Council following each meeting of the Board.*

#### 6. **Meeting with Hon Paul Swain**

On 4 August the General Manager and I had an appointment with the new Minister of Transport, Hon Paul Swain. The purpose of the meeting was to bring the Minister up to date with our principal concerns with respect to his portfolio. Although most time was devoted to matters relating to rail, we also discussed the Regional Land Transport Strategy with particular reference to Transmission Gully. The Minister stated his intention of having the new transport legislation introduced within the next month.

It was encouraging to note the enthusiasm of the Minister for advancing the issues that we have lobbied for over many years. We should also report that the Minister particularly noted the meticulous work that Cr McDavitt has contributed in the interests of developing the WRC's Regional Land Transport Strategy.

#### **Recommendation**

*That the Report be received.*