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Committee       Council  
Author          Margaret Shields Chairperson

## Chairperson's Report

### 1.     **Alister Abernethy**

As a number of Councillors are aware, former Council member Alister Abernethy passed away on 5 June 2003. Alister served two terms on the Council from 1983 to 1989 and was Chairman of the Corporate Services and Staff Committee during his second term. A letter of condolences was sent to the Abernethy family.

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

Most of you will have caught up with the fact that Peter Winder, CEO of LGNZ, has accepted a position as head of Transport at Auckland Regional Council. During his time with LGNZ Peter has done a magnificent job; not only getting the financial situation back on track following “the troubles” but also giving strong leadership to the staff and support to the National Council. Peter will be leaving LGNZ immediately after the Conference at the beginning of August.

Given the process that must be followed to appoint a new CEO and the time that is likely to take, it will be necessary to appoint an acting CEO for the few months until we have the new person on board. Meanwhile, I will be involved in the selection process along with my other duties at LGNZ. With only a month to go until the Conference, that is the main item on the collective agenda. However, there is a great deal of interest in the return of the Transport Management Bill to the House, now expected in September.

### 3.     **Chairperson's leave**

I will be taking some time off before and after the *Local Government New Zealand* National Conference and will be absent from the Council from 23 July to 4 August, inclusive of the 5 days associated with the Conference.

### 4.     **Visit to Mt Bruce**

The Council is a major contributor to the Pukaha forest restoration project at Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre. The Department of Conservation has invited the Council to hold a meeting at Mount Bruce and/or to visit the Pukaha project. Council staff have suggested the possibility of holding the September

meeting of the Council at the Wairarapa office and arranging a visit to Mount Bruce following the meeting for those Councillors who are interested. I would like an indication of the support for such an initiative from the meeting.

## **5. Councillor remuneration**

Council staff reviewed a draft determination prepared by the Remuneration Authority for any errors of fact. Some comments were sent back to the Authority on the meaning of a resource consent hearing that made reference to a district plan but not a regional plan.

It appears that the Authority has accepted the Council's recommended remuneration, but final confirmation is needed before the necessary changes can be implemented.

At the time of writing this report, Authority staff advised that the final determination is to be gazetted on Thursday 26 June as a statutory regulation.

## **6. Adoption of the LTCCP**

I want to record my appreciation of the effort put in by Councillors and Council staff over the last 18 months to put us in a position where we can consider adopting a Long Term Council Community Plan at this meeting. Only eight Councils in the country are adopting a LTCCP this year. All of the hard work this time around should be repaid with a much easier process for the following two years.

It's been pleasing to see the way in which the community has engaged in the process and supported the Council's new approach and vision as expressed through the Take 10 Quality for Life elements.

## **7. Final meeting for Mr Stone**

This Council meeting will be the final one for Mr Stone. I'm sure that all Councillors will join me in formally recording our appreciation for all that Howard has done for the Council over the last 14 years, and wish him well in his retirement. It's a tribute to Howard's leadership skills that as a Council we have achieved so much over the last 14 years, and Howard has much to be proud of. The truth is that much that gives us pride in GWRC is the result of Howard's initiative, vision and his ability to inspire those qualities in others.

## **8. Recommendation**

*That the Report be received.*

Report prepared by:

**Margaret Shields**  
Chairperson

