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Committee Council
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Report on the Carter Observatory

I am appointed to the Board of the Carter Observatory by the Minister of Research, Science and Technology on the nomination of Greater Wellington. From time-to-time I provide you with a report on Carter activities and developments.

The Carter Board continues to function very well. It is a Board with a good range of abilities and it is very active. We have two major lines of development:

- (1) the Carter's bid for a building on the Wellington waterfront,
- (2) the development of an online education business to teach astronomy into secondary schools throughout New Zealand.

The move to the waterfront is something I support. The idea is that the Carter would be the lead tenant in a building on Site 3. The building would be 5 stories high and in a wonderful location to develop both our visitor industry and to service those who wish to learn more about astronomy in a somewhat more serious way. The Carter owns the land and buildings on its present site and these would be disposed of if we shift to the waterfront. As you can imagine this is a major project and the Wellington City Council has provided funding for the investigations that are necessary. Decision making on this could be rapid.

The development of the online education business is a project that I am heading up for the Board. We have established unit standards in astronomy (so we have something to teach and the students can gain NCEA credits), we are seeking our registration as a provider, we are producing a course and putting it onto the internet. Again, this is a significant project, costing the Carter over \$100,000, and it is proceeding well. We have had good support from NZQA and no support from the Ministry of Education. Apart from our goal that relates to providing something useful for secondary school students, we also want to make money out of this business.

Should any member of Greater Wellington wish to discuss the Carter Observatory they could email me robert.shaw@paradise.net.nz or telephone 233 0252

Councillor Robert Shaw
Porirua City Council

Wellington Regional Council - 11 December 2003

To be moved:

That the report be received and the contents noted.