



Report **03.727**
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Committee **Council**
Author **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

Chairperson's Report

1. **ARC Visit**

I hope that all Councillors found the visit to the Auckland Regional Council as useful as I did. We have heard much about Auckland's transport woes, and it was a useful benchmark to see first hand the current status of rail. We have much to be thankful for with our well-developed rail commuter network in Wellington.

I found the session on stormwater particularly interesting and believe that we have much to learn from Auckland on managing the adverse effects of runoff on our waterways and coasts. I am pleased to note that we are beginning to address stormwater issues in a structured manner and look forward to seeing advances in the near future.

As is usual with such visits, a key aspect was the opportunity to have informal discussions with our Auckland colleagues.

I have written to the ARC thanking them for hosting our visit.

2. **LGNZ National Council**

(a) **Central/Local Government Forum**

On 20th November I took part in the Central/Local Government Forum with the team from LGNZ National Council. There were a number of topics canvassed and the discussion was full and frank.

(b) **Acting President**

During November, in the absence of Basil Morrison (overseas), I represented Basil at meetings of Zone 5 & 6 as well as taking part in presentations to Select Committees and several TV snippets on currently contentious topics (ranging from the Building Act review to the new Dog Legislation).

3. Mayoral forum

This was attended by Terry, in my stead, and our CEO, Barry. Any questions should be addressed to them.

4. Another year over ...

Once again we have reached the end of another productive year for the Council. Key achievements during the year were the adoption of our first Long Term Council Community Plan and the appointment of Barry Harris as our new Chief Executive. I would like to record my appreciation to my fellow Councillors for their enthusiasm and dedication to the tasks at hand. I'm proud to lead a Council whose attendance is not dictated by the payment of meeting fees.

It is also worth recording our thanks to all staff for their unfailing enthusiasm for the jobs we do – both together and separately.

To Barry, its great to have you on board and to see the progress being made in such key areas as improving our relationships with other agencies.

5. Seasons greetings

To all my Council colleagues, both elected and staff and your families, every good wish for the coming festive season. Enjoy the break and take time to relax with family and friends.

6. Recommendation

That this report be received.

Report prepared by:

Margaret Shields
Chairperson