



**Report**                    **04.711**  
**Date**                     9 December 2004  
**File**                      E/06/01/05

**Committee**            **Council**  
**Author**                **Ian Buchanan Chairman**

## **Chairman's Report**

It is with pleasure that I present my first report to Council after one and a half months in the job.

### **1. Solway Workshop**

My thanks to Councillors and staff for the success of the two days. It seems that the format of receiving background information papers ahead of the workshop and allocating most of the contact time to open discussion of issues worked well. It is planned that this approach will form the general model for Council and Committee workshops. At the time of writing this, Councillors are starting the first round of committee meetings and briefings to set us up for a busy New Year at full speed.

### **2. Wellington Transport Package**

I have kept you informed of progress to date. This will continue as officials, local leaders and Government ministers finalise a regional package for announcement in the New Year.

### **3. Regional Leaders**

In what seems to be a constant round of meetings with the Mayoral Forum, transport packages have taken centre stage. It is important that all regional agency leaders are equally informed on this issue so that we can speak with one voice of the appropriate time. The meeting record from the Regional Leaders' meeting with MP's has previously been circulated in the Bulletin.

### **4. Regional Affairs Committee**

This Committee met for the first time post the elections on 26 November. The Committee dealt with a number of matters that I will speak to at the meeting. These included:

- Presentation from the Honourable Marian Hobbs, Minister for the Environment

- Overview and discussion of the report “Growing for Good: Intensive farming, sustainability and New Zealand’s environment” prepared by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
- Dairying and Clean Streams Accord – update on the first year of progress
- Constitutional matters
- Biosecurity matters
- Resource management matters
- Coastal matters
- LGNZ matters
- Sustainable Development: Programme of Action: Energy
- Sustainable Development: Programme of Action: Water
- Rivers and Flood Control
- Strategic Issues

## **5. Wellington Regional Strategy Forum Workshop**

Members of the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum met for a two day workshop in early December. The most pleasing aspect from my perspective was the good spirit of co-operation between all members which bodes well for the future of this important project. It has always been my view that the processes followed and relationships built will be of equal value to the product itself.

## **6. Other Activities**

I had the privilege of representing local government in the region, together with Mayor Kerry Prendergast, at the service for the Unknown Warrior held at St Pauls. A very fitting and moving ceremony.

It seems that one of my most important roles is to greet visiting international groups in NZ on study tours who are interested in aspects of Greater Wellington’s activities. The first of these was a delegation from the Yellow River Conservancy Commission in China looking at water management approaches. John Allard appears to have priority access to my diary for these appointments!

Steady progress is being made on working through meeting a long list of politicians and opinion leaders in the Greater Wellington community to line up a consistent and positive response for the Wellington Transport Package when it appears from government. Once this package is settled I will have more time to focus on the many other aspects of Greater Wellington’s functional

responsibilities, and the political relationships that go with them. I am pleased to see the Committee Chairs and members getting rapidly settled into their new roles in preparation for what is going to be a very busy 2005.

## **7. Recommendation**

*That the report be received and its contents noted.*

Report prepared by:

**Ian Buchanan**  
Chairman