

**Report 99.734**  
File: E/6/1/5 (sm)  
8 December 1999

Report to Wellington Regional Council  
From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

## **Chairman's Report**

### **1. The New Government**

Congratulatory letters have been sent to newly elected and re-elected Members of Parliament from this region, (both constituency and list MPs).

We anticipate that the first meeting with the MPs will take place early in the New Year.

There are two new faces – Ms Winnie Laban and Mr Stephen Franks. They have been invited to come and meet with us on a one-to-one basis to talk about this Council's roles. Ms Beyer, as Mayor of Carterton, is very familiar with the WRC. We will, of course, be writing to Sue Kedgley.

We will also be approaching the new Ministers with portfolios relevant to the Council and offering appropriate support.

The New Government's policies concerning community and local government are, generally, to be welcomed. Regional Councils certainly can expect, in due time, to have a wider mandate.

### **2. Auckland Regional Growth Strategy**

While in Auckland in November I attended the Public Launch of the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy.

The documents are tabled. They include:

the Regional Growth Strategy  
the Regional Land Transport Strategy  
and the Passenger Transport Action Plan

Clearly the growth problems facing Auckland are immense. The Regional Growth Forum is a local solution to a local problem. It was set up under the auspices of the Auckland Regional Council and includes all the Auckland city and district councils. Its preparation also involved Government groups, IWI, and a range of private and public sector organisations. It is Chaired by the ARC Chairman Phil Warren. At the launch, all Mayors from within the

Auckland Region signed their commitment. Auckland is to be commended for this initiative.

### 3. **“Elements” - Our New Newspaper**

Congratulations to the General Manager and our Communications team for producing the first issue of “Elements”, our new community newspaper.

I recall advocating the need for such a publication last year. The first issue will be distributed to households in the Region over the next few days.

It will be most interesting to see how well “Elements” is received.

I believe it will result in a community that is much better informed about the WRC and its responsibilities.

### 4. ***Local Government New Zealand Matters***

Together with Councillor Shields and Mr Maguire, I attended the meeting of *Local Government New Zealand’s Zone 4* on 15 November. The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting are attached.

Cr Shields may wish to comment further.

### 5. **Appointment of Hearing Committees and Amendments to Delegations**

The question of appointing members of the Wairarapa Hearings Committee comes up separately in the Report of the RSW Committee.

Under delegations from the Council the Chairpersons of the Environment and Rural Services and Wairarapa Committees make a number of decisions relating to the composition of Hearing Committees to consider resource consent applications and to hear submissions on the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans.

While the delegations state that either the Committee Chairman or the Divisional Manager may exercise these delegations, it has been the practice in the Wellington Office that the delegations are exercised jointly. It is also the practice that, where it is proposed to appoint the Chairperson of the Environment Committee to a Hearings Committee the agreement of the Council Chairperson is sought.

It is now proposed that the Council formalise this practice and extend it to the Wairarapa Office.

#### **Recommendation**

(1) *That the Council approve the following amendments to delegations:*

(a) *Power to determine the appropriate composition of each Hearing Committee for the Wairarapa Constituency, given that it be drawn from the full Rural Services and Wairarapa*

*Committee (this includes the power to appoint Committee members as required).*

*Delegated to Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee Chairperson and Divisional Manager, Wairarapa jointly.*

- (b) *Power to determine the appropriate composition of each Hearing Committee for the Wellington, Kapiti, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua Constituencies.*

*Delegated to Environmental Committee Chairperson and Divisional Manager, Environment jointly.*

- (c) *Power to select any appointed Hearings Committee member to act as the Hearings Committee Chairperson for the Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti Constituencies; this power becoming effective when the Chairperson of the Environment Committee is not available or is not appointed to the Hearings Committee.*

*Delegated to Environmental Committee Chairperson and Divisional Manager, Environment jointly.*

- (d) *Power to select any appointed Hearings Committee member to act as the Hearings Committee Chairperson for the Wairarapa; this power becoming effective when the Chairperson of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committees is not available or is not appointed to the Hearings Committee.*

*Delegated to Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee Chairperson and Divisional Manager, Wairarapa jointly.*

- (e) *Power to determine composition of each Hearing Committee established for the purpose of hearing submissions and making recommendations on any regional policy statement or regional plan.*

*Delegated to Environment Committee Chairperson and Divisional Manager, Environment jointly.*

- (2) *That the Council Chairperson shall approve all instances where it is proposed to appoint the Environment Committee Chairperson or the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee Chairperson to a Hearings Committee.*

- (3) *That the previous delegations be repealed.*

## 6. **Ara Tahī**

Council is currently represented at Ara Tahī meetings by myself and Cr Buchanan as Chair of the Environment Committee. As you are aware, Ara Tahī's role, functions and representation is currently under review.

One matter that could appropriately be dealt with now is to appoint the Deputy Council Chair (Cr Shields) and Deputy Environment Committee Chair (Cr Gibson) as deputies for myself and Cr Buchanan respectively. To assist them in maintaining and developing an ongoing understanding of Ara Tahi the Council should formally authorise the attendance of both at all meetings of Ara Tahi.

Our Councillors would be welcome to attend, but not in a formal capacity.

### **Recommendation**

- (a) *That Councillors Shields and Gibson be appointed as Deputies for myself and Cr Buchanan at meetings of Ara Tahi.*
- (b) *That both be formally authorised to attend all meetings of Ara Tahi.*

### 7. **Shirley Moore**

As you will be aware Shirley retires on 14 January. Since I have been Chairman I have valued her sterling support. I know Councillors too have found her to be very courteous and helpful. She has shown, at times, immense patience in dealing with difficult customers.

I am sure you will all join with me in thanking Shirley for her valued contribution and wish her all the best in retirement.

### 8. **Seasons Greetings**

As the year draws to a close, I extend to all Councillors, staff and their families, the compliments of the season on behalf of myself and Tricia.

The year has been a very busy one and the coming one will, no doubt, be just as busy and exciting, as we progress the review of our LTFS and follow-up on other policy initiatives.

STUART MACASKILL  
Chairman