

9. LGNZ (LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND) PAPER FOR WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, JOHANNESBURG

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's input on a paper prepared by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD)

The World Summit on Sustainable Development will be held from 26 August to 4 September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, 10 years on from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992.

Local Government New Zealand is seeking comment, by 16 August 2002, on its draft paper "*Accelerating Sustainable Development: Local Action Moves New Zealand*", which its delegates will be taking to Johannesburg. This is Local Government New Zealand's review and response to the Local Government Dialogue Paper prepared by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) for the World Summit. The draft paper has been separately circulated to Councillors.

COUNCIL RESPONSE

Local Government New Zealand is specifically seeking a response on whether:

1. The Council endorses (or does not endorse) the document "*Accelerating Sustainable Development: Local Action Moves New Zealand*" and
2. The Council approves (or does not approve) the fixing of the signature of Local Government New Zealand President, Basil Morrison to the "*New Zealand Local Government Declaration on Sustainable Development*".
3. What the Council's key concerns are.

The above paper and declaration are both generally in line with the Council's existing commitment to sustainability and the Council may wish to endorse/approve actions 1 and 2 above.

However, while doing so, the Council may also wish to raise the following key concerns.

Issues to be Addressed, Part 2, Section 1

The second sentence could be replaced with "*Of these, environmental degradation is one of the most salient issues facing New Zealand local authorities*"

Poverty and inequity, Section 1.1

The first two paragraphs could be replaced with:

"ICLEI notes that "addressing ... the growing gap between rich and poor ... between the developed and developing worlds is integral to sustainability." Studies indicate that income inequality is associated with lower levels of economic growth (Knack and Keefer 1997), poorer health outcomes (Wilkinson 1996, Kawachi et al 1997, Kawachi and Berkham 2001, Kaplan 1996), lower levels of social capital and political participation (Putnam 2001, Veenstra 2001, Woolcock 2001) and threats to social cohesion (New Zealand Treasury 1999). In addition "1.2 billion people now live on less than one dollar a day and 2.8 billion on live less than two dollars a day" (David Grayson, July 2002, quoting the World Bank) whereas the median personal income for people over the age 15 years is \$18,500 in New Zealand, which equates to \$US 25/day. Recognising this, New Zealand could do more to help address this global gap between rich and poor. As ICLEI states, "those who have the greatest ability, in authority and resources, have the greatest responsibility to act."

Some communities in our country also face poverty and inequity problems. They are typically manifest as health problems, social exclusion, substandard housing and location-specific unemployment."

Progress Achieved, Part 3

The first paragraph, starting “Generally , New Zealand can hold its head up...” could be replaced with:

“New Zealand has developed some “strategies” and related initiatives , particularly over the last year to address some Agenda 21 issues.”

The third paragraph, starting “Our domestic law and policy ...” could be replaced with:

However, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment comments, 5 August 2002, that:

- *Since 1992, successive governments have failed to adopt and implement broad-based sustainable development policies or programmes.*
- *Statutes with provisions that refer to sustainable development or management concepts are generally only those dealing with the management of natural resources or local authority responsibilities.*
- *No single agency or group of agencies has the responsibility for coordinating or overseeing the implementation of sustainable development in New Zealand”*

Proliferation of Local Agenda 21s, Section 3.1

In the second to last paragraph in this section, the sentence immediately after “*Production, implementation and monitoring of each of the plans, strategies and policy statements required under the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act requires substantial input from local authorities*” could be replaced with “*Collectively, they make a significant contribution to achievement of the Local Agenda 21 principles.*”

Conclusions, Part 6

The second paragraph could be replaced with:

“Recognising the threat to sustainability, including economic sustainability, posed by the growing gap between the rich and poor, the key challenge for local government is to find new ways to meet the needs of our current and future generations, without compromising the quality of the environment. At the same time we need to develop our communities in a way that gives people identity, creates a sense of belonging, and promotes a connection to cultural heritage.”

SUMMARY

The Council can add value to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, by commenting on Local Government New Zealand’s draft paper “*Accelerating Sustainable Development: Local Action Moves New Zealand.*”

Recommendation: That, subject to its key concerns listed above being noted, the Council endorse the Local Government New Zealand paper “*Accelerating Sustainable Development: Local Action Moves New Zealand*” and approve the fixing of the signature of Local Government New Zealand President, Basil Morrison to the “*New Zealand Local Government Declaration on Sustainable Development*”.

Chair’s

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.