

## 19. REPORT ON THE COMBINED ZONE 5/ZONE 6 MEETING 22/23 AUGUST 2002

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| <b>Delegates</b><br>The Mayor, Councillor Sue Wells and<br>Community Board Chair, Yvonne Palmer | <b>Author</b><br>Allan Watson, Infrastructure Policy Leader, Associate Director of Policy<br>DDI 941-8303 |
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This report highlights for the Committee matters discussed at the Zone 5/6 meeting held in Dunedin on 22/23 August 2002.

The Council's nominated delegates are the Mayor, Councillor Sue Wells and Community Board Chair Yvonne Palmer. At this meeting the Council was represented by Councillor Carole Evans and Community Board Chair, Yvonne Palmer, apologies being recorded for the Mayor and Councillor Wells.

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

John White, Managing Director of Global Renewables Limited, Melbourne, presented his company's solution to handling municipal waste - a single site high tech solution that sorts the waste and then uses rapid in vessel digestion to reduce the residue to a safe soil additive with a final 10% going to landfill.

Our representatives were surprised to hear that the per tonne cost of treating waste through the plant was around NZ\$90 for a throughput similar to Christchurch tonnages. However this efficiency has yet to be proven in a fully operating plant. (Mr White has been in Christchurch discussing the city's waste management strategy.)

### **AUDITOR GENERAL PRESENTATION**

Kevin Brady explained the role of the Audit Office and elaborated on seven key challenges identified by the outgoing Auditor: The new Local Government Bill; improving governance; improving capabilities; improving service delivery; enhancing asset management performance; risk management and retaining the integrity of regulatory administration.

### **SOUTH ISLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

The formation of this trust is now a reality but in response to a presentation seeking Zone 5 and Zone 6 support for the trust, the meeting resolved that member authorities be given the opportunity to view the trust deed before making any support commitment.

### **TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF ELECTION EXPENSES**

This proposal by Christchurch City Council was not supported, although it was suggested that if the proposal were limited to sitting members seeking re-election it may have more support. The concern was that the tax deductibility would have to extend to all people who were incurring expense seeking new employment, a proposition central government was unlikely to agree to.

### **SPARC**

Local Government New Zealand National Council has already resolved to take the cessation of SPARC contributions to the Community Sport Fund to the Minister and this move was endorsed by the meeting. Individual authorities were encouraged to make their own representations. Alistair Graham is in touch with other initiatives involving regional groupings (e.g. Wellington and Otago) where complaints about SPARC's action are being directed into more formal avenues - Ombudsman (already done) and Auditor-General (potential). SPARC executives will be attending a meeting of the Community and Leisure Committee on 30 September to discuss issues arising from the withdrawal of funds and new initiatives that could be supported.

## **BROADBAND PROJECT : VENTURE SOUTHLAND PRESENTATION**

Venture Southland (the Economic and Community Development Agency) has undertaken a major survey of competing needs throughout its district and is now poised to take maximum benefit out of the Government's Project Probe which is allocating major funding to get Broadband Service into all schools, and to the wider community to the greatest extent possible. The tender process for the provision of this high level internet access will identify the areas left unserved and provide the cost of extending service to these areas. The Local Government sector and their economic development agencies may well be asked to fund a component of this extension of service. The Canterbury Forum has established an officer committee with Paddy Clifford Chief Executive Officer, Hurunui District Council as convener, to investigate and manage the region's response to this opportunity.

## **PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN RMA PRACTICE**

Jenny Chetwynd, Ministry of the Environment, outlined a set of eight projects being carried out by the Ministry of the Environment as part of the Government's response to the Business Compliance Cost investigation which made 162 recommendations on ways to reduce compliance costs. These eight projects concentrate on RMA processes and cover :

- Voluntary Accreditation Scheme for Decision Makers.
- Charging for Resource Consent Processing
- Contracting out Resource Consent Processing
- Resource Consent templates
- Resource consent notification : Research and Guidance
- Iwi Consultation : Database research and Best Practice Guidance
- Business Guide for Maori Groups involved in RMA Processes
- Centres of Regulatory excellence.

A full description of these projects is tabled. This Council's Environmental Services Unit is involved in a regional meeting that will provide feedback on the briefs for the projects and work is due to commence in October.

## **NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY BOARDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Yvonne Palmer commented on a written report provided to the meeting noting that four of the six Zones have now held Community Board forums and that visits to individual Community Boards is continuing. She noted the excellent relationship that now exists between the National Council, LGNZ staff and the Community Board Executive Committee and expressed appreciation for the support received.

## **REPORT OF PETER WINDER CHIEF EXECUTIVE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND**

Peter's report is tabled for information. Subjects covered were:

### **Local Government Bill**

Enactment by the end of 2002 is still likely. Assistance to territorial local authorities in the implementation of the Act will be provided by LGNZ under the brand name "Local Government Knowhow". Eight project teams have been established to concentrate on the dominant themes: Rating; Outcomes; Planning; Consultation; Regulatory; Governance; Regional/Territorial Relationships; Developer levies.

### **Sustainable Development**

- (a) Sustainable Development Project Team.
  - Draft Sustainable Development Strategy.
  - World Summit for Sustainable Development.
  - Sustainable Development Web Site.
  - Sustainability Series 2002.
  - Local Government Act Implementation.
  - Local Government New Zealand Conference.
  - Work Programme.
- (b) Sustainable Development Strategy.
- (c) World Summit on Sustainable Development.

## **Environment and Bio-Community**

- (a) Energy Efficiency.
- (b) Action Bio Community.
- (c) National Policy Statement on Biodiversity.
- (d) Waste Management
- (e) Biosecurity.
- (f) Climate Change.

## **Regulatory Activity**

- (a) Building Act.
- (b) RA Amendment.
- (c) Public Works Act.
- (d) Hazardous substances and New Organisms Act.
- (e) Compliance Costs.
- (f) Food Safety.

## **Land Transport**

- (a) Transfund's Funding Allocation Framework.
- (b) Draft New Zealand Transport Strategy.

## **Utilities**

## **Water and Waste Water**

## **Economic Development**

- (a) New Zealand Filming Protocol.
- (b) Mayors Task Force for Jobs.
- (c) Tourism.
- (d) Sister Cities.
- (e) E-Local Government Strategy.
- (f) Broadband.

## **Health and Community**

## **Social and Cultural Wellbeing**

## **Treaty of Waitangi and Maori Issues**

## **Emergency Management and Emergency Services**

- (a) Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill.
- (b) Clause 105 of the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Bill.
- (c) Proposal formulated by Hon George Hawkins for Fund the Fire Service by means of a Levy on Property.

## **Communication**

## **Conference 2002/2003**

## **ENVIRONMENT COURT**

The Principal Environment Court Judge, J Allin, outlined changes to both the resources and processes of the Court aimed at reducing backlogs. She emphasised the significant and varied leadership role local authorities can play in assisting in the resolution of matters before the Court.

## **ATTENDANCE BY DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDERS (TASMAN/MARLBOROUGH/WEST COAST; CANTERBURY)**

Following brief addresses members had the opportunity to raise policing concerns peculiar to their district.

## **Chair's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.