

## 14. BOARD SUBMISSION TO FINANCIAL PLAN 2004 EDITION

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At the 3 June meeting of the Board, the submission of the Board to this years draft Annual Plan was noted. It will be recalled that the Finance and Planning Committee had earlier been provided with power to act to prepare and forward the submission.

Following the attendance of the Chairman and the Community Advocate at a meeting of the Yaldhurst Rural Residents Association on 18 June, an opportunity was considered as to how concerns of the Association, at events surrounding the rural fire experienced in the Chattertons Road area earlier this year, could be progressed.

With the Board's submission scheduled to be heard on Monday 23 June the opportunity was taken to add an additional clause to the Board's submission being presented to the Annual Plan Sub Committee, as follows:

"Since the formulation of the original submission the Board has received considerable concern from the rural community regarding a serious rural fire in the Chattertons Road area earlier in the year. It has now been deemed appropriate that the Board add a further clause, as follows, to its original submission.

The numbering follows the sequence in the original submission.

### **(xvi) Rural Fire Fighting** (ref Corporate Expenses - pages 146)

On or about Waitangi weekend there was a serious rural fire which potentially, threatened some properties in the Chattertons Road area. Fortunately damage was confined to land areas only, although the fire did actually threaten to breach the southern boundary of the Orana Wildlife Park. It is understood that the fortunate aspect of a wind change materially assisted a satisfactory resolution in avoiding a potential disaster if the fire had progressed further into the Wildlife Park.

Shortly after the fire the local residents held an on site "debrief" with relevant authorities present to express their concern at the events which they claimed were not under effective control and, more recently, the residents have held further discussions with Fire Service officers, and have also obtained copies of the formal fire debrief.

At a recent meeting of the Yaldhurst Rural Residents Association the local residents have confirmed their concerns that systems are not adequate to deal with fires of the like that was experienced earlier in the year.

The Board understands that fires of this kind are "managed" under the Rural Fire Fighting Authority, and it now wishes to suggest that the Council should review urgently its contribution to, and involvement in, the matter of fire fighting in rural areas, in the light of the potentially dangerous occurrence in the Chattertons Road area earlier this year."

The Board's support for the action taken by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Finance and Planning Committee Chairman, is sought as an outcome from this report.

### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board confirm the action taken in including an additional clause to the Board's submission.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.