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The purpose of this report is to bring members of the Projects and Property Committee up to date on progress of the WestpacTrust Centre project and to seek approval of funding for the procurement of a second and third portable wooden floor for the World Netball Championships 1999 (WNC 1999) from the proposed 1999/00 Council budget.

**REPORT PERIOD ENDING: 20 NOVEMBER 1998**

**PROJECT PHASE: POST CONSTRUCTION**

### 1. GENERAL

The facility has been operational since 5 September 1998 with full commercial operation commencing on 12 September 1998. The consultants have completed their defects inspections and the contractor is expected to have worked through these minor remedial works by mid December 1998.

A series of de-briefings were held with the project team following the first few events to establish any "bedding-in" problems with the building. These meetings have resulted in some post contract instructions being issued to address items such as lighting and lighting controls during concert events and enhancements to the lighting rig. Generally, the building has performed and been operated very successfully since opening without too many "teething problems."

### 2. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Procurement details for a second and third wooden sports floor for the World Netball Championships 1999 are required to be finalised.

A second hand floor is available for purchase from Melbourne, Australia and has recently been inspected by Andrew Robinson (Major Projects Co-ordination Unit) and Barry Davies (NCC (NZ) Ltd). The floor is surplus to the current Melbourne owners requirements following a recent merger between two basketball clubs. The floor is exactly the same type as the new floor recently purchased for the WestpacTrust Centre and is four years old. It is in fair condition and will require some repair and remedial work to restore it to a very good condition. The floor would be a very good second floor for the WestpacTrust Centre providing greater flexibility in the future for attracting sporting events and reducing ongoing hire charges. It would be used for the WNC 1999.

The 1998 Council Plan has funding of \$755,000 provided for additional furniture, fittings & equipment for the WestpacTrust Centre of which \$175,000 is designated for the purchase of one additional sports floor. (The first floor was purchased in 1997 for \$165,000.) More recent quotes indicate that a new floor is now worth \$220,000 – 240,000, largely due to foreign exchange fluctuations.

The second hand floor in Melbourne can be purchased, transported, repaired and renovated for a budget figure of \$140,000. It is recommended to purchase this floor.

A third floor required for the WNC 1999 is expected to be leased and approval is sought to finalise negotiations for the lease of the third floor within a budget figure of \$35,000.

### 3. APPROVALS SOUGHT

Approval is sought to pre-purchase from the 1999/00 financial year a second hand wooden sports floor for the purposes of the WNC 1999 for a budget of \$140,000. Approval is also sought to finalise negotiations for the lease of a wooden sports floor for the WNC 1999 for a budget of \$35,000, funded from the 1999/00 financial year.

The procurement of these further two floors will meet the Council's obligations for provision of the necessary netball courts for the WNC 1999 in September 1999.

### 4. COST CONTROL

The total remaining contingency is \$100,264. Provision has been made for the settlement of the final account.

The monthly financial report is attached.

The Committee received the report and submits the following recommendation.

**Recommendation:** That \$175,000 of the \$755,000 set aside in the 1999/2000 financial year be advanced to allow the pre-purchase of a second-hand wooden floor and to allow negotiations for the lease of a third floor for the World Netball Championships 1999 to be finalised, and that this amount of \$175,000 be paid from current reserves and repaid from the 1999/2000 provision for this item.