

15. TRAFINZ CONFERENCE - SPEAKERS

RR 10467

Three international speakers attending the Trafinz Conference in Christchurch were invited to address the Committee.

Gerald Harrington (Portland, USA)

Mr Harrington commented on the strategy adopted in Portland to bring the Portland central city area to a more vital place for residents of Portland (population 1.3 million). The strategy developed from a vision statement in 1972 "The Downtown Plan". The city is serviced by 800 buses and 72 light rail vehicles. The city is currently allocated approximately \$250US annually to public transport. A transit mall has been built in the central city and there is no provision for parking on street. Mr Harrington noted that pedestrians are given higher priority in Portland than in Christchurch with no parking provided on street wider footpaths are possible. Parking buildings are priced for short term parkers. Profits from car parks are distributed to the Downtown Business Association for the marketing and cleaning of the central city area.

David Engwicht (Brisbane, Australia)

Mr Engwicht referred to the issue of changing attitudes of residents to the use of private motor vehicles. He referred to the change in attitudes to rubbish and the growing support for recycling and reuse. Encouraging residents to use their vehicles less by showing inefficiencies could reduce vehicles usage by 22-30% instantly. In Brisbane self-help kits had been issued to residents making traffic reductions on suburban streets the responsibility of residents rather than the Council. He referred to the "walking school bus" and other programmes designed to encourage walking and cycling by school pupils. Changing these patterns can lead to changes in public transport use in the future.

Liz Ampt (Adelaide, Australia)

Ms Ampt referred to the living neighbourhood concept of improving the quality of life in 1 km² or 2 km² areas. A partnership from all who live or work in the neighbourhood is agreed reducing the use of vehicles. Residents maintain a diary of vehicle use and look at new ways of making better use of public transport.