

Officer responsible Council Secretary	Author Dennis Morgan
Corporate Plan Output: Councillors	

The Council is requested to appoint its delegates to this year’s Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Auckland from Monday 12 July to Wednesday 14 July 1999. LGNZ has forwarded the following information on this year’s conference:

“Focusing on ‘local democracy’ and what it means to New Zealanders is critical to ‘local government’ operations in both theoretical and practical terms. One of the key questions the Conference will address is to define how local democracy fits into the current economic and social framework- this being largely thought of as ‘the market place’ model. We want delegates to think about the place that ‘citizens’ and ‘communities’ have in this framework and to propose solutions to the fear many people have that they are no longer heard.

Speakers addressing the Conference include the Mayor of Honolulu, Jeremy Harris – someone who strongly advocates the ‘community voice’ and also can demonstrate practical ways his own council has made this a reality (and reduced so-called ‘bureaucracy’ into the bargain). Also featuring is Moira Rayner a lawyer, professor and author of ‘Rooting Democracy - Growing the Society We Want’. Moira holds a strong view on the prevailing thinking that corporatisation is the answer and also provides solutions rather than simply a critique of this ideology.

A feature debate will be held between Gareth Morgan, Chief Executive, Infometrics Ltd, outspoken advocate of the private sector model and Chris Trotter, publisher of the NZ Political Review and an outspoken advocate of a public sector model. Drs Marilyn Waring and Denis Dutton will also feature – both bringing extensive experience and powerful arguments to bear. The Minister of Local Government in the United Kingdom, the Rt Hon Hilary Armstrong, will be joining delegates by a live video link-up on day two. Our own Minister of Local Government, the Hon Maurice Williamson, will join her briefly before giving his own address to delegates. The Rt Hon Helen Clark, Leader of the Labour Party, will set out for delegates what her party will seek to achieve in the area of local democracy should Labour form the Government after the election.

The two days also feature four more focused seminars where delegates can spend time crunching issues of specific interest to them. These cover infrastructure, environment, and the future of local government with the fourth one being left ‘free’ to enable and ‘issue of moment’ to be covered at that time. Will let delegates know about the content of that seminar in early June.”

The following members have represented this Council at the last two conferences:

1997 Conference (Wellington)

Councillors Close, Freeman, Murray, Moore and O'Rourke

1998 Conference (Dunedin)

Councillors Crighton, O'Rourke, Stewart and Councillors Close and Murray for days 2 and 3 only

Next year's conference will be held in Christchurch. Councillor David Close has been nominated to liaise with Local Government New Zealand in the planning for the 2000 conference.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Mayor, Councillors Close, Crighton, O'Rourke and Wright attend the 1999 Local Government New Zealand Conference.
 2. That the Council appoint the Mayor and Councillor Close as the voting delegates.