

## 7. RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE - REPORT OF 15 MAY 2001 MEETING

The Board was in receipt of the report of the Environmental Committee meeting of 15 May 2001.

### 1. HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND HEALTH ISSUES

An article in a newspaper, on this issue, had prompted an invitation to Mr Martin Gledhill (of the National Radiation Laboratory, Christchurch) to attend this meeting.

From research done to date it would be generally accepted that:

- There is no good evidence that extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields are capable of producing cancer.
- In the absence of clear evidence of a carcinogenic effect in adults, or of a plausible explanation from experiments on animals or isolated cells, the epidemiological evidence is currently not strong enough to justify a firm conclusion that such fields cause leukemia in children.
- It has not been possible to detect the supposed increase in childhood leukaemia.
- There is no absolute scientific proof that residential exposure to EMF's is involved in the development of cancer in adults and children.

Martin also commented on studies and investigations carried out at various Christchurch sites.

Information was tabled, and has been circulated to Board members.

It was agreed that this had been a very worthwhile discussion on what is a continuing community issue.

### 2. TURNING POINT 2000 STATE HIGHWAY LANDSCAPING PROPOSALS

Mr Grant Edge, a landscape consultant to the Environmental Planning Unit, presented plans for two sections of SH1, soon to be landscaped under the Turning Point 2000 project, ie:

Carmen Road/Masham Road  
Templeton/Hornby

The plans showed extensive areas/sites for landscape enhancement. With work starting in the Spring, it is hoped to have these two major projects completed within the 12 months following.

### 3. ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY "LOOKING AHEAD 2001-2011" PLAN

The following representatives from Environment Canterbury were present for this clause:

Cr Diana Shand  
Cr Peter Yeoman  
Mr Ken Taylor (Environmental Quality Manager)  
Mr Richard Ball (Strategic Planner)  
and Mr Neil Pilbrow (Strategic Planner)

There was an informative discussion on this publication, consisting of a draft annual plan (2001/02), and a draft long term financial strategy (2001-2011).

Discussion covered most of the 12 portfolios; major interest centred on the 'water quality and quantity' portfolio.

With the increasing conversion of arable farmland to dairy farming, coupled with the prolonged regional drought and with the plains irrigation proposal, concerns were raised about the impact these activities would have on natural water resources and the possibility of aquifer contamination.

It was **agreed** that a working party consisting of Alison Wilkie, David Buist and Mike Mora be asked to look further into this proposal.

4. **OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED/HELD OVER**

- Street tree planting sites
- Honorary Park Wardens
- 2001/02 Project Fund Allocation
- 2001/02 Project Progress Report

The Board **received** the report.