

9. 2003 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NZ CONFERENCE

Officer responsible Council Secretary	Author Julie Sadler, DDI 941-8438
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The purpose of this report is:

- to seek authority for Councillors to attend the 2003 Local Government New Zealand Conference;
- to seek the appointment of the Council's voting delegates to the conference; and
- to consider a request from the New Zealand Community Boards' Executive Committee for Mrs Yvonne Palmer to attend the conference.

This year's conference will be held in Queenstown from Sunday 27 to Wednesday 30 July 2003. The theme of this year's conference is "Local Government Unlimited?". The draft conference schedule is tabled.

Generally the Council authorises 4-5 Councillors to attend the Conference. Last year, the Council's delegates were the Mayor, Councillors Harrow, James, Stonhill and Wells. Based on last year's prices the cost of attending the conference will be approximately \$2,000 per delegate.

The Christchurch City Council is entitled to appoint three conference voting delegates, with any additional Councillors attending as observers.

In addition a letter has been received from the New Zealand Community Board's Executive Committee requesting that Mrs Yvonne Palmer be authorised to attend the conference. The Executive Committee anticipates there will be much value in Mrs Palmer attending. The letter states:

"Beneficial relationships and networks are now well established through regular attendances at zone meetings and this will be enhanced by attendance at the conference. The conference programme is likely to focus on the future role of local government post the implementation of the new local government legislation and community boards are to be a key feature in this new environment."

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Mayor, Councillors Oscar Alpers, Helen Broughton and Gail Sheriff and Mrs Yvonne Palmer be authorised to attend the 2003 Local Government New Zealand Conference.
 2. That the Mayor and Councillors Oscar Alpers and Gail Sheriff be appointed as the Council's voting delegates.
 3. That those attending be required to conduct a presentation to elected members on conference issues.