

5. REPORT OF THE ZONE 5 MEETING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND

RR 10258

The Chairman reports:

A meeting of zone 5 (local authorities in Canterbury, Marlborough, Nelson and the West Coast) took place on Friday 28 May. The meeting covered a number of issues of relevance to the City Council.

1. DRIVER LICENSING

The loss of service from rural towns is causing some considerable concern. A subcommittee of mayors was appointed to demonstrate to the LTSA and the Minister that the contractor is not providing adequate service. It was also suggested that dissatisfied members of the public should write to their MPs.

2. WASTE MINIMISATION

It was agreed to write again to the Minister of the Environment stressing the difficulties faced by local authorities in an economic environment where there are no incentives for manufacturers to reduce waste and where markets for recyclable materials are weak or non-existent.

The meeting endorsed the City Council's remit to the Local Government Conference on the need for a working party of representatives from industry, commerce, local government and central government to recommend effective national measures for waste minimisation.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVE REPORT ON REVIEWS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

About 12 major reviews are underway – road, water, waste water, RMA, rating powers, etc.

Canterbury's model for road reform (Community Roads") has been incorporated with the Local Government New Zealand's submission as a community governance model.

LGNZ has launched a study of "An improved corporate governance model" to be used in the event of the government pushing through the various reforms. The meeting considered that this was a defeatist approach and insisted that we did not wish to make concession on issues such as water reform. The mood of the meeting was opposed to planning a strategy to cope with defeat.

LGNZ has lodged a strong objection to the Government's proposal to allow applicants for resource consents to choose whether a commissioner or elected members hear applications.

The Department of Internal Affairs has said it is prepared to look again at the non-rateability of Crown land in the rating powers review.

LGNZ has been represented by top legal advisers in a hearing in Auckland on apportionment of rates.

4. **ROAD REFORM**

Mark Gordon, City Streets Manager, outlined the strategy to make road reform an election issue by presenting it in a manner that ordinary people can understand. The purpose is to demonstrate the commercial model is unworkable, with a view to getting the government to agree to work with local government on a community governance model.

5. **CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENCY**

John Terris (Mayor of Hutt City) and Louise Rosson (Chairperson of the Otago Regional Council), addressed the meeting.

6. **SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRES**

Raewyn Weller, National Co-ordinator, addressed the meeting on ways and means of assisting small businesses. She paid tribute to Christchurch for developing a number of the programmes which are now used throughout the country.

7. **FENCING OF SWIMMING POOLS**

The degree of compliance and enforcement varies from one local authority to another. It was pointed out that councils not enforcing the Act effectively could be legally liable in the event of drownings. Hurunui suggested that a joint approach by Zone 5 councils through joint advertising could be useful. Jonathan Fletcher explained that the City Council had found it effective to work through education and LIMs. Some councils said that well publicised prosecutions were the best way of encouraging pool owners to comply.

8. **RURAL FIREFIGHTING**

A Mayor from the West Coast said there was an ever increasing reluctance for people to volunteer and for employers to release staff for firefighting. Some councils objected to the new code of practice, but City Council representatives said that the staff training and other measures required by the code were essential if local authorities were to be able to tackle rural fires effectively and with safety.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

1. That the information be received.
2. That staff give consideration to the Hurunui proposal for joint newspaper advertising to warn pool owners of their responsibilities.