

6. NZPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors of the NZ Planning Institute's Annual Conference to be held this year in Christchurch from 17 to 20 May.

By now Councillors should have each received a copy of the Conference Registration Brochure. A range of quality international and national speakers will give keynote addresses on the topical issues of community participation, urban sustainability and biodiversity. All three topics are at the forefront of current debate amongst a wide range of community organisations and professional disciplines. Participants will also hear first hand from the new Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Marian Hobbs.

Of particular interest is a special half-day session specifically for Councillors. The afternoon of Wednesday 17 May has been set aside at the start of the conference to provide a forum for Councillors to discuss relevant issues amongst their peers from around the country. The following topics have been selected from ideas generated through consultation and will be presented for discussion:

- Financial Contributions
- Length of Time Plans and Policy Statements Take to Prepare and Make Operative and Implications for their Review
- The Fine Line Between Stifling development and Responding to Community Views
- Hearings / Decision Making

Councillor Charles Manning will chair this session and will call a team of enthusiastic facilitators to lead discussion on each topic.

Please note that, to avoid a late registration fee of \$50, registrations should be received by the Conference Organisers by 14 April.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That interested Committee members be encouraged to register for the conference.