

Report 99.523

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15 September 1999

Report to Wellington Regional Council

From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. Water Schemes in Drought Prone Areas

I have received the following letter from Bob Frances in his capacity of Executive Officer of Masterton Business Enterprise Inc.

“Since the 1998 drought, Masterton Business Enterprise has co-ordinated a number of meetings with local councils and industry leaders, to consider how we could minimise the impact of that drought and further predicted incidents. Earlier this year, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of a \$2 million fund to assist drought prone areas to investigate water schemes and recently Agmardt, as the Government's agent have sought applications to access that funding.

During the past two months, we have worked with the Wellington Regional Council and industry leaders, to develop a Wairarapa wide strategy regarding a study and last week met with Dr John Bright from Lincoln Environmental Division of Lincoln Ventures, who is assisting with the bid and will be involved with the study.

We believe the most appropriate way to progress this initiative, is to now formalise the establishment of a Steering Committee which will include the four councils, including the Wellington Regional Council and a number of key industry leaders.

Colin Wright and Matthew Morgan from the Wellington Regional Council will provide the local technical support and Masterton Business Enterprise will continue to co-ordinate and lead the study.

I would appreciate if you could appoint your representative prior to the first meeting of the Steering Committee, on Wednesday 22 September, 3pm, Wellington Regional Council Office, Chapel Street, Masterton.

Please advise Angela of your representative prior to the 22nd on 06 378 8010.”

I believe the appropriate WRC representative is the Chair of the RSW Committee, Cr Long.

(In his absence Cr Buchanan, as Deputy Chair of the RSW Committee would deputise).

Recommendation

That Council appoint Councillor Long as its representative on the proposed Steering Committee.

2. **Stadium Open Day**

At the time of the opening of our new stadium it is proposed that the WCC and WRC host an open day at the new stadium. This is proposed for 2 January.

The open day will enable the public to see all aspects of the new stadium, including behind the scenes places that generally will not be accessible to the public once it is open.

Community organisations will be involved on the day to act as tour guides.

It is stressed that it is proposed that the event be the **Two Councils' opportunity** to acknowledge the contribution of the community toward the facility. Wellington City Council has committed \$25,000 to this event and this Council should do likewise.

The organisation of the day will be carried out by a professional event organiser.

There is likely to be a very large visitor attendance. Entertainment, mainly voluntary, would be provided. This will enable community groups to showcase their talents in celebration of the new stadium.

Recommendation

That the WRC match the WCC contribution by contributing \$25,000 toward the stadium open day.

3. **University of Auckland Business School Executive Programme**

Attachment 1 is a copy of a brochure concerning a “Leadership in Organisations” short course conducted by the University of Auckland in October.

Councillor Shields has expressed an interest in attending the course.

Recommendation

That Council approve the attendance of Councillor Shields at the “Leadership in Organisations” course.

4. **Local Government New Zealand**

Together with Crs Shields and McQueen I attended a Combined Zones 3 and 4 Meeting in Palmerston North on 25 August. The agenda is attached (**attachment 2**). It will be noted that Mr Benham was a participant in the Panel Discussion on the Water Review.

Councillors present will report orally at our Council meeting.

5. **Local Authority Elected Members' Remuneration : Public Discussion Document**

Councillors have been provided with a copy of a discussion document received from the Department of Internal Affairs recently.

It will be noted that the closing date for submission is **4 October 1999**.

I had proposed that a small working party of councillors be set up to review the discussion document and prepare a draft Wellington Regional Council submission for consideration at the Policy and Finance Committee Meeting on 21 September 1999. Unfortunately it has not been practicable to arrange a meeting up to now.

I invited Councillors to indicate their willingness to serve on such a working group. Councillors Allen, Gibson, McQueen, Shields and Turver have offered their services. I propose that these Councillors make up the working group. As Cr McQueen chaired the group which prepared Council's earlier submissions, I propose that he chair this working group.

In addition to making a direct submission to the Department of Internal Affairs it seemed that the Council would also have the opportunity to have input into a *Local Government New Zealand* submission. I now understand that *Local Government New Zealand's* response will be to resubmit their earlier submission which in their view more than adequately covers the questions raised in the discussion paper.

Recommendation

That the Working Group comprise Crs McQueen (Chair), Allen, Gibson, Shields and Turver.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman

Attachments 1 and 2