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Report 01.484

5 July 2001

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Report of the Meeting of the Utility Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Thursday, 5 July 2001 at 9.30am

Matters for Council decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box
Matters for information of Council are in italic type

Present

Councillors McQueen (Chairperson), Laidlaw, Shaw, Shields, Thomas and Werry and Councillor Hutchings (WCC)

Also Present

Councillors Allen and Turver

Officers Present

Messrs Benham, Darroch, Kennedy, Morrison, Nugent, Roberts and Stone

Public Business

Procedural Items

US203 **Apologies**

Resolved

(Cr Laidlaw/Cr Shaw)

That the apology from Councillor Macaskill be confirmed.

Councillor McQueen said Councillor Shields will be a late arrival.

US204 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public who wished to participate in the meeting.

US205 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved

(Cr Shaw/Cr Laidlaw)

That the minutes of the public and public excluded meetings held on 17 May 2001, (Report 01.468 and Report PE 01.469), be confirmed.

Councillor McQueen said, if members agreed, he will suspend Standing Orders to enable informal discussion following the video presentation.

At 9.35am it was resolved as follows:

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Shaw)

That Standing Orders be suspended.

US206 **Presentation**

(1) **Video**

Councillor Shields arrived at 9.40am.

Councillor Turver arrived at 9.41am.

Councillor Werry arrived at 9.43am.

Councillor McQueen invited Linda Kennington secretary for Sue Kedgley MP, Steven Barner, Green Party member and support person, Mary Byrne, Pure Water Association and Chris Straughier, Osteopath and Health Professional to present the video on fluoride.

(2) **Questions**

Following the presentation of the video members asked questions of Linda Kennington and her colleagues. In her concluding remarks Linda Kennington said that people in the region had no choice about fluoride in drinking water, and Council had introduced its policy without a mandate to do so.

(3) **Discussion with Peter Dennison, Public Health Dentist**

Peter Dennison commented on the accuracy and completeness of the research quoted in the video and said that in 28 years of dental practice and the examination of the teeth of about 500 children a

year in the last few years in Wellington he had never seen any evidence of tooth fluorosis shown in the video.

Mr Dennison said he supported the Council's policy for fluoride in drinking water and especially praised the policy for the way it contributed to the maintenance of high quality teeth for all children especially those in the lower socio-economic groups.

(4) **Information about the Regional Council Fluoridation**

Mr Kennedy, Strategy and Asset Manager, gave a presentation on source of fluoride supplied to the Regional Council, the specifications and impurities percentage through test analysis, including the limits of those impurities. Mr Kennedy also answered questions.

(5) **Recommendations**

At 10.50am it was resolved as follows:

Resolved (Cr McQueen/Cr Shaw)

That Standing Orders be resumed.

Councillor McQueen thanked Linda Kennington and her team for a clear and genuine presentation. Members were now better informed on the fluoridation debate.

Resolved (Cr McQueen/Cr Laidlaw)

That the presentations from Linda Kennington, Mr Dennison and Mr Kennedy be received.

Morning tea: 10.55am

Resumption 11.10am

Councillor McQueen said that Councillor Shaw had a prior engagement and would be leaving at 12 noon and therefore with agreement from members the Committee will now proceed to the public excluded part.

US207 **Exclusion of the Public**

Report 01.471

Some members expressed the view that the report on the future of the plantation industry should be discussed in the open part of the meeting. It was noted that Standing Orders required that discussion should take place in the public excluded part where the decision on whether the item should remain in the public excluded, would be made.

Resolved (Cr McQueen/Cr Werry)

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

- (1) *Future of Plantation Forestry*
- (2) *Extension of the Wholesale Water Supply System to the Kapiti Coast*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<i>General subject of each matter to be considered:</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each</i>	<i>Ground under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</i>
(1) <i>Future of Plantation Forestry</i>	<i>Because of the need to carry on commercial negotiations</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist (ie to carry on commercial negotiations).</i>
(2) <i>Extension of the Wholesale Water Supply System to the Kapiti Coast</i>	<i>Because of the need to carry on commercial negotiations</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist (ie to carry on commercial negotiations).</i>

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1) (a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act of section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Wellington Regional Council (1) and (2)

At 11.13am the meeting adjourned.
At 12.15pm the meeting reconvened.

Matters for Information

US208 **Divisional Report**

Report 01.465

File: O/2/1/10

Councillor Turver left at 12.15pm.

Resolved

(Cr McQueen/Cr Thomas)

That the report be received and the information noted.

US 209 **Questions**

Agent Orange

Councillor Thomas said that a claim had been made that Agent Orange or its components had been buried in Seaview and also had been dumped at the Wingate Tip some years ago. Councillor Thomas asked whether there had been any adverse impact on the aquifer or any other areas.

Councillor McQueen said officers of the Environment Division were checking and would report to Council in due course. Officers advised it was most unlikely there was an impact on the aquifer in the Hutt. The layer above the aquifer has extremely low permeability. It was noted that there was regular monitoring of drinking water for any adverse chemicals and any negative result would be dealt quickly and efficiently.

US 210 **General**

There were no matters of general business.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.

CR EUAN McQUEEN
Chairman

Date:

Wellington Regional Council – 10 July 2001

To be moved:

<p>That the report of the meeting of the Utility Services Committee held on 5 July 2001, Items US 203 to US 210 inclusive, be adopted.</p>
