



Report **06.280**
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Committee **Council**
Author **Ian Buchanan Chairman**

Chairman's Report

1. Key passenger transport issues

As expected, a number of important milestones concerning progress on trolley buses, rail contract and EMU procurement have been forced to a head during the month. A lot of hard talking between all of the parties involved has resulted in significant progress, some of which is included in the 29 June Policy, Finance and Strategy Order Paper. My congratulations to Dave Benham and his team for pulling all this together.

2. CentrePort/Harbour Quays

Further progress has been made on agreeing on a process for the Boards of CentrePort and Port Investments Limited to jointly examine and review appropriate structural arrangements to best realise shareholder value from our ownership of this important strategic asset. Harbour Quays Development proposals are being assessed, and further discussions with Wellington City Council around issues raised in submissions to the LTCCP have been initiated.

3. National water issues

I attended a meeting of the RAC Water Management Group in Hamilton this month. Good progress is being made toward presenting a united Regional Council perspective on water management issues to central government agencies through a Water Forum to be held in Christchurch in August. This is a pro-active response to the Government's Programme of Action on Water announced last month in order to secure regional councils' role in driving initiatives for the development of appropriate policy and regulatory instruments required for future water management.

4. Arbor day planting

This is the month for tree planting. Aably assisted by Crs Baber, McDavitt, Shields and Turver, I have planted dozens of trees at Belmont and QE Parks. This is not to belittle the efforts of hundreds of local school children that have planted thousands of trees while the rest of us were puddling around in the

swamps. The Parks staff are exceptionally good at organising and running these days and the engagement of the kids is invaluable. Well done to all those involved.

5. Meetings attended other than GW

LGNZ National Council - Hastings

Jim Lynch – Karori Wildlife Sanctuary

Tim Pankhurst – Dominion Post

Lower Valley Development Scheme – Martinborough

RAC water subcommittee – Hamilton

Liz Ward – CentrePort

Hutt City – RPS presentation

British High Commission – reception for George Fergusson

Simpson Grierson Policy Makers Series – Nick Smith and Maurice Williamson

Mayor Kerry Prendergast – WCC/GW matters

Upper Hutt City Council – RPS

CentrePort – Crane Commissioning

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

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Chairman