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Committee Council  
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## Chairman's Report

As this is my last report to Council for this triennium, I would like to take the opportunity to very briefly review the period, and acknowledge the contributions made to what I believe has been an outstanding three years for the Council. In this triennium, following has been achieved:

1. A new Chief Executive, appointed in year one, resulted in a management review that has re-invigorated the organisation. With this now bedded in council is in a position to provide leadership in many areas. Most notable of these is in a total catchment approach to sustainable land and water management (including climate change adaptation), Regional Policy Statement review and public transport development.
2. Secured in excess of \$1 billion in transport network capital funding from central government, including close to \$400 million for public transport. This has enabled the purchase of new trains for the Wairarapa service, contracting for the purchase of replacement EMUs and capital upgrades to the rail network over the next three years that will see a 21<sup>st</sup> century service in place.
3. A complete revamping of our transport administration and planning, leading to outstanding delivery of the Regional Land Transport Strategy, Regional Passenger Transport Plan and the Western Corridor Plan. Highly professional service procurement, roll-out of Metlink and public engagement have all been highlights.
4. The completion of a sustainable development strategy (WRS) for the region demonstrated the value of collaborative approaches to regional issues. This process, and the results achieved, are seen as a model for other regions to consider. It can't be said that this was an easy process, not the least difficult being settling on an implementation process involving Greater Wellington, including a new targeted rate for regional economic development.
5. High quality work at both professional and political levels on the Regional Policy Statement review. New provisions in the RMA have placed hugely greater importance on this planning document and the processes required to develop it. Much of the hard work has been completed and we can look

forward to the statutory process with confidence. Also in the environment area, the adoption of our charging policy review with no public submissions is a testament to high quality policy development and thoroughly professional implementation.

6. Delivery of flood protection capital work in all parts of the region, plus the ongoing maintenance of our river and catchment schemes is a vital core function that largely escapes public attention unless it fails. A new bridge on SH2 over the Waiohine River allowing significantly improved flood capacity, the completed review of our largest flood protection scheme in the lower Wairarapa Valley with the full support of that community, completed major works on the Hutt River and settling on the next stage of protection for Hutt City at Boulcott, the on-going saga of the Waiwhetu Stream and preparation for the Crystals Bend extension on the Otaki River, are all major achievements for the communities affected.
7. The purchase of Waitangirua Farm to secure Belmont Regional Park, finalising arrangements for the management transfer of Whitireia to Greater Wellington, advancing proposals for Lake Wairarapa and anticipating Whareroa shows Greater Wellington's commitment to enhancing the Park network. Our parks continue to play a major role in contributing to both environmental and social well-being in the region.

There has been a very wide range of other "business as usual" activities delivered by the organisation in a highly competent and professional manner, all of which are highlighted in the performance reports received by Council and publicly reported in our Annual Reports.

Organisational performance at this level is not achieved without a focused, well-informed and effective Governance body working very closely with a professional executive team and motivated staff. I extend my appreciation and thanks to all members of Council for your contribution to the governance of Greater Wellington over the past three years. Your singular approach to issues over personalities has always focused robust debate where it counts – in making sound political decisions and judgments.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by the five councillors who are not standing for re-election. Terry, Margaret, Glen, Rick and Chris have collectively contributed 57 years of service to this Council. All have made huge contributions as committee chairs and in Margaret's case as Council Chair from 2001-2004. Your collective wisdom and wit will be greatly missed around the council table. I would particularly like to thank Terry for his support as Deputy Chair during my three year term. He has always been available to cover activities that I have been unable to attend, and has done so in his thorough fashion. Terry's advice to me on all matters related to council business has been greatly valued, as it is always thoughtful and appropriate. I have recognised his specific contribution to the transport sector through a special presentation at the Regional Land Transport Committee.

## **1. The last month**

The 2007 Chief Executive's performance review has been completed and reported on separately to Council. As councillors will note from that report, Greater Wellington is very well served by our Chief Executive and his executive team. As Chairman of the Council, I have formed a very strong working relationship with Dave, despite the fact that he prefers chardonnay.

## **2. LGNZ matters**

The Regional Affairs Committee has had its final meeting for the triennium, with the major focus remaining on sustainable land and water management, including flood risk management and climate change adaptation. Horizons is convening a Chairs and Chief Executives' forum on 24 September to examine the way forward on issues related to highly erosion prone land, and particularly the collective application of a small amount (\$10 million over 4 years) of government funding in this area. I have reported separately on flood risk and water issues so will not repeat that here. On transport matters, the Next Steps review is proceeding with legislation development and we will have a Select Committee process to deal with in October-November. No surprises are expected from what has already been made public by government but as always, the devil will be in the detail.

## **3. Waiwhetu Stream remediation**

Councillor Laidlaw and myself met with Minister David Parker (Environment) and local MP Trevor Mallard to further discuss funding availability for this project from Ministry for the Environment. Some further suggestions were proposed and these are now under consideration by the Minister.

## **4. Meetings other than Greater Wellington**

Zone 4 – Paraparaumu

Nigel Gould – Centreport (x 2)

ONTRACK – Chief Executive and Chairman

Mayor Guppy – WRS matters

Mayor Prendergast

State Luncheon – President of Vietnam

Launch – NZ environmental code of practice for plantation forestry

Regional CDEM Controllers

Hill Country Steering Group

Hugo breakfast – David Parker

Sustainable Business Awards

Government Climate Change briefing

Finally, my best wishes to those Councillors seeking re-election. Hopefully, all of us can look forward to another very successful triennium.

## **5. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:

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Chairman