

## **Report 99.72**

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1 March 1999

Report to Wellington Regional Council  
From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **1. The Late Jim Gray**

It is with sadness that I pay tribute to our late colleague, Jim Gray. He served on the WRC from 1995 to 1998 and was, in the latter stages, Deputy Chair of the RSW Committee.

He always had what he felt to be the interests of the rural community at heart. This was manifest in several impassioned pleas at the Council table on behalf of the rural sector.

Over the years he held elected office with the Wellington Harbour Board, Porirua City Council and Porirua Licencing Trust. Administration of sport was another major interest at the local and regional level where he was for a time Deputy Chair of Sport, Wellington.

The dedication of the Gray family to public life is manifest in the fact that two brothers have been elected to Regional Council at different times.

#### **2. Local Government New Zealand**

##### **2.1 Regional Affairs Committee Chairperson**

- (1) **Attached** is a letter from Richard Johnson, Canterbury Regional Council Chairperson, advising that he will not be seeking re-election as Chair of *Local Government New Zealand's* Regional Affairs Committee.

I will be writing to Richard to express the appreciation of this Council for the contribution he made as Chair of the RAC.

- (2) I understand that Neil Clark, Chair of Environment Waikato - (the Waikato Regional Council) is willing to take on the role. The election will formally take place when the RAC meets on 19 March.

Subject to Council's agreement Neil will bring valuable capabilities to this role, given the pressures facing the region through government proposals for change in several major policy areas.

## **Recommendation**

*That Council support the nomination of Chairman Neil Clark, Environment Waikato for Chairmanship of the Regional Affairs Committee.*

### **2.2 Zone 4**

Councillor Shields and I, together with Mr Maguire, attended the Zone 4 meeting on Monday, 22 February.

We will report orally.

### **3. Review of WRC Committee Arrangements**

When Council was discussing its committee structure at its first meeting, it resolved, on the recommendation of the “old” Council, to formally review (initially at a workshop) the committee structure early in 1999.

As indicated in my memo of 21 January 1999 to our councillors, I, for one, believe that the present committee structure works well and is very appropriate in present circumstances but acknowledged that significant changes in responsibilities (e.g. water supply) could warrant some change. I also feel new councillors in particular may have different views after we complete the upcoming triennial review of “Facing the Future”. A review of committees should be completed before the next triennial membership and constituency review (in the Year 2000).

You will recall that I invited any councillor who had any clear view on changes thought appropriate at this stage, to give me those views in writing. I felt that those views could provide the basis of a workshop.

I went on to say, if there are no suggestions at this stage, I proposed to formally recommend to Council that a review be held over until early next year.

The only comment received was from Cr Shaw who said - “we should have the review, but I see no haste for it and see no reason why things should be changed”.

In the circumstances I believe it appropriate to complete such a review around April 2000 when we should have completed the “Facing the Future” Review, but is prior to the next membership and constituency review.

I would certainly still see the review being initiated through a workshop at about that time.

4. **Recommendation**

*That the review of committee arrangements be deferred from early 1999 until early 2000 (initially at a workshop).*

5. **WCC Representation on WRC Committees**

Councillors will recall that WCC was invited to be represented at the WRC's Utility Services & Passenger Transport Committee meetings on a speaking but not voting basis. That Council is also entitled to be formally represented, with a vote, on our Regional Land Transport Committee.

Advice has been that the WCC representatives will be

- Utility Services Committee                                  Cr Ian Hutchings
- Passenger Transport Committee                                  ) Cr Sue Kedgley  
Regional Land Transport Committee )

STUART MACASKILL  
Chairman

Attach. Letter from Richard Johnson