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**Report 00.431**

12 June 2000

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Report to the Environment Committee  
From Councillor Jim Allen

**Conference 2000 Christchurch “Welcome to the Future” – 17-20 May 2000**

This Conference was probably the most informative New Zealand Planning Institute Conference I have attended in the last 10 Years. The Conference was orientated towards Community participation and biodiversity with a small sector of urban sustainability. This Conference was biased towards regional councils therefore I gained a lot of very interesting knowledge that I can feedback to the Council.

Various reports will be, separately, tabled at the meeting and the same copy will be available for further perusal in the Councillors’ Lounge after the meeting.

The Conference started with a special Councillors Session which was a first time experiment to allow attending Councillors to meet and participate with discussions on their problems as affected by planning laws etc. The session was well attended and good debate was held. The session concluded with a wonderful humorous skit on how not to hold a Notified Hearing Application.

The participants felt that this session was of high value and it should be incorporated into future Conferences.

The conference was opened on Thursday at 9.00 a.m. with a Powhiri by the Ngai Tahu. followed by an address by the NZPI President Robert Schofield.

The first Keynote address was from Sir Tipene O’Regan with the message that New Zealand is one country with different races but we should all work together, at the same time appreciating that we have different cultures that should be respected, as well the treaty should be recognized for what it is; not as a agreement between Maori as a race but with Iwi’s as tribes.

The second keynote speaker from Dr Wendy Sarkisson on community participation was an excellent address on getting the community to work with the council and take an active interest in projects so that the community can OWN the project. (Note I have asked for more information on this method of operation and Wendy will assist us if we require her help.) Report tabled.

At this point the Conference broke into workshops so I will continue to report on the keynote speakers then report on the workshops and field trip I attended.

The Minister for the Environment, Hon Marian Hobbs presented a very enlightening address on her thoughts for the future. Report tabled.

A keynote address from Carl Binning Senior Research Economist from Yass, Australia focused on practical methods of protecting indigenous biodiversity and motivating organizations and people to participate in achieving such practices. Carl's paper is tabled.

Dr Glen Lauder, Consultant of Wellington presented his keynote address on the development of the New Zealand biodiversity strategy, how it might now be implemented and the possible implications for planning and resource management. There are no copies of his presentation available at the time of preparing this report.

A keynote address by Sir Peter Hall, London, United Kingdom was via a live video link. This was a novel way of presenting a speaker, even though it was a two-way link I felt there was something missing by not having the presenter in the auditorium. Sir Peter's address was to consider the possible future of planning and resource management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I found this address to be quite boring and not very interesting. There is no written copy of this presentation.

The next keynote address was by Professor Patrick Troy of Canberra, Australia on the direction of Urban Planning. This address was hard to follow but a good set of notes is tabled.

The last keynote address was by John Kari, Senior Planning Practitioner, Minneapolis/St Paul Minnesota U.S.A. John had already addressed the W.R.C. before the Conference so I have tabled his paper.

The workshops I attended were as follows:

1. **Planning at the Margins -Better land and Water Management**

This was basically a group workshop on the understanding of the methods of pollution of waterways and how to mitigate the effects and the sources.

2. **Protecting and Monitoring Coastal and Marine Biodiversity: How can we do it Better?**

This workshop was most interesting as it directly affects regional Councils. I gained the impression that we have a hard road ahead and will need to seriously look at where and what we are going to do to meet our requirements on this issue. This paper is tabled.

3. **The Planning Framework for Maori Land**

This workshop was well presented and made clear that there are problems with ownership with Maori land in determining what act protects the owners as well what are the boundaries of each piece of land. Once again there is lot of work ahead on this problem, the presenter, Janet Stevenson New Zealand Historic Places Trust has carried out a lot of investigation in this field but I got the feeling she has only scratched the surface. I await a copy of the presentation disc.

**Field Trip**

The field trip that I participated in was:

**Pollution, Pastimes & Partnerships, Port Hills/Lake Ellesmere**

This trip began with a visit to the air pollution-monitoring site in St Albans. This site was similar to the W.R.C. unit but was a fixed site with a Telephone data link to allow remote access to the data collected.

The second visit was to Rolleston to consider proposals to triple the size of the township. My interest at this location was how the public transport system could be modified to serve this new community.

We next visited Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora) to gain an insight into the issues and values of the Tangata Whenua in regards to the ownership of the lake.

The tour then traversed the Summit Road to learn of the competing demands for access to the Port Hills and the positive measures to retain vegetation and the action to establish a regional park for Canterbury.

This was the end of the working part of the conference but the social part was well organized and enjoyable.

I would like to thank the W.R.C. for the chance to attend the conference and to represent the council I believe that this was a worthwhile conference and well presented.

**Recommendation**

*That the report be received and the contents noted.*

COUNCILLOR JAMES ALLEN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Allen', written over a faint dotted line.

10 June 2000