

**Report 00.696**  
13 September 2000 (hp)  
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Report to Wellington Regional Council  
from Margaret Shields, Acting Chairperson

## **Chairman's Report**

### **1. Local Government New Zealand**

- a) Review of the Local Government Act. I am pleased to report the Government's continued commitment to putting a new Act in place. As the Minister has commented, the timeframe is extremely tight, but there is now a clear demonstration of the Government's commitment having filtered through to officials with joint Central Government/Local Government working groups underway. I note that Mr Allard is a Local Government representative on two of the six groups.
- b) A Zone 4 meeting took place on Wednesday, 23 August. Stuart Macaskill and I have previously spoken of the main discussion and resolutions from that meeting.
- c) **Nominations for President and Regional Sector Group.** See nomination forms attached. (**Attachment 1**). I will report orally on this matter.
- d) **Other matters.** There is a general settling down now following the resignation of the Presidential Team. I chair the transitional committee and the various major projects are underway. Eric Millar (ex CEO of Hastings District) is on board as the Acting CEO on 26 September. A meeting of members is to be held on either 22 November or 7 March. We are asked to give our view. My recommendation is that such a meeting should be held in March by when there should be substantial progress on the reforms.

## **Recommendation**

*That the Wellington Regional Council advise Local Government New Zealand that the members' meeting should be held in March 2001.*

## 2. **SOLGM Conference**

I attended the SOLGM Conference along with Councillors Gibson and Thomas. I will invite them to make any comments they wish. For my part, I welcomed the chance to catch-up with a number of officers and councillor colleagues and found some of the overseas presentations quite thought provoking.

## 3. **The New Zealand Festival**

I note that Alex Reedijk has been appointed Executive Director of the Festival in succession to Carla von Zon. We should congratulate him on his appointment. It will be a hard act to follow as the Festival injected a total value added to the Wellington economy of \$23.5 million. The Tattoo will be the main reason for a reasonable direct financial surplus. It need hardly be said that the Tattoo would not have been here without the Regional Stadium.

## 4. **Regional Economic Development**

Along with others, I attended, and indeed spoke at the launch of the SUG report. Francis Small and his team have taken the concept of a regional entity a step further. I will be interested to see where it goes from here. The matter appears substantively in the Policy and Finance Agenda.

## 5. **Flood Protection Policy**

I attach a letter just received from the Deputy Auditor-General (**Attachment 2**). The letter results from a complaint received concerning our Flood Protection Funding Policy.

As you will see no further action will be taken in relation to the complaints, so I trust the matter ends there.

I take note of the comments regarding our providing greater specificity between the funding policy and its application for each scheme. I shall personally take a great interest to ensure that we do so in future.

## **Recommendation**

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

MARGARET SHIELDS  
Acting Chairperson

**Attachment 1: Nomination forms for President and Regional Sector Group**

**Attachment 2: Letter from Office of the Controller and Auditor-General**