



Report **03.620**
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Committee **Council**
Author **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

Chairperson's Report

1. Leave of absence

Councillor Yardley has asked for Leave of Absence from 6 – 24 November 2003 as she will be out of the country. I recommend that this request be granted.

2. ARC Visit

Preparation for our visit to the Auckland Regional Council is well advanced. I anticipate that that programme will be finalised and available to Councillors by the time of the Council meeting.

3. LGNZ National Council

I am chairing the "Election Co-ordinating Committee" which has just had its first meeting. The major task is to ensure that all electors become well-informed voters at the next local body elections. It is likely to be a very tall order when one considers the permutations and combinations of the District Health Boards (all voting STV), Regional Councils (all voting FPP but one with a Maori constituency), 74 Territorial Authorities (of which 8 vote STV and the remainder FPP), Community Boards, Licensing Trusts and a few Energy Boards. It should be fun.

4. Mayoral forum

There is a meeting of the Mayoral Forum on 24 October. I will provide a report back at the Council meeting.

5. Transport legislation

It is pleasing to see some tangible progress on new transport legislation with the reporting back of the Land Transport Management Bill. From a political perspective I'm pleased to see the changes relating to Public Private Partnerships, Regional Planning and Regional Council ownership of public transport services and infrastructure. I look forward to the enactment of the

Bill so that we can start to address some of the long standing transport concerns of the Region.

6. Pauatahanui Inlet Science Workshop

I attended the two-day Pauatahanui Inlet Science Workshop last week. The workshop, jointly sponsored by GW and PCC with a strong input from the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust, was a great success. It brought together scientists, practitioners and community representatives with expertise in estuarine management from around the country. ARC have led the way and have funded extensive research into the impacts of urban development on estuaries. Much of what they have learnt is applicable here. A clear message from all participants was to get going with practical measures such as sediment control, riparian planting etc and not to wait for more science. Officers from GW and PCC (and the Trust) are meeting next week to have a debrief and prepare a report of follow up actions arising from the workshop.

7. Recommendations

- 1. That the report be received.*
- 2. That the Council grant leave of absence to Councillor Yardley for the period 6 – 24 November 2003.*

Margaret Shields
Chairperson