



Report 04.111
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Committee Council
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Chairperson's Report

1. Change to meeting schedule

In December 2004, Council adopted a meeting schedule for 2004. Occasionally it will be necessary to make amendments to the schedule to accommodate changed circumstances. One such change has arisen with respect to the Regional Land Transport Committee where an additional meeting is necessary to enable consideration of Transit's land transport programme. It is recommended that the meeting schedule be amended to incorporate an additional meeting on 31 March 2004.

2. Mayoral forum

The first Mayoral Forum for the year will be held on 4 March 2004. A key item on the Agenda is the Wellington Regional Strategy and I will ask Mr Harris to report back on this item at the meeting.

3. LGNZ National Council

I have been fortunate to be asked to represent *LGNZ* at the United Cities and Local Governments 2004 Founding Congress. The Congress will take place on 2-5 May 2004 in Paris, France. A large number of participants are expected to attend the Congress, which has the theme 'Cities, local governments; the future for development'.

The congress will be an opportunity to explore the role of local government in development, exchange experiences and develop strategies for the future. The congress will be divided into three sub-themes:

- Local sustainable development in a globalising world
- Decentralisation and local democracy
- Co-operation, partnership and solidarity between local governments for peace and development

I plan to take the opportunity to spend some time travelling before the Congress and seek leave of absence from 22 April to 9 May.

4. **Tony Draper**

Tony Draper, who was a very good chairman of our Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Advisory Committee, died on 24th February. Tony had chaired the Advisory Committee since its inception in 1988. He was also an appointed member on our Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee 1995 – 1995 and a South Wairarapa District Councillor. Tony was a very astute and gentle person behind his somewhat gruff exterior, and he will be a great loss to South Wairarapa and the Region. I have passed our condolences onto his wife and family.

5. **Recent Storm Events**

Hopefully we are over the worst of the recent storm events that have plagued the country and we can be thankful that we were spared some of the worst aspects. However, we can be proud of the Region's flood defences that have proved their worth. I would like to thank the numerous staff members who have put in an extraordinary effort during the events to minimise impacts and to help return life to normal as soon as possible for the many people affected.

Our Wairarapa office is administering and organising the taskforce green workers who will be doing clean-ups on a number of badly affected farm properties in the Wairarapa as part of the Government's flood relief package. This will involve approximately a dozen people for two to three months.

6. **Presentation on Gateway Project**

Councillors will have noticed in the meeting programme that we will have a presentation on the Wellington City Gateway Project by Mayor Prendergast on 30 March. The project has particular relevance to CentrePort and we have invited them to send representatives to the presentation and to provide some comment from their perspective. We have also invited the non-councillor WRC Holdings Directors to join us.

7. **Funding and Investment Issues for Local Government – Short Course**

I have received material on this two-day course being run by the University of Auckland Business School. The topics to be covered are included as **Attachment 1** to this report. The topics are highly relevant to us and it is my recommendation that the Chair of Utility Services attend the course.

8. **Recommendations**

1. *That the meeting schedule for 2004 be **amended** to incorporate an additional meeting of the Regional Land Transport Committee on 31 March 2004.*
2. *That the Council **note** that I will be absent from 22 April to 9 May 2004 and that I will be representing LGNZ at the International Union of Local Authorities 2004 Founding Congress from 2 – 5 May 2004.*

3. *That the Chairperson of the Utility Services Committee attend the “Funding and Investment Issues for Local Government” Short Course being run by the University of Auckland Business School.*

Report prepared by:

Margaret Shields
Chairperson