



Report **06.60**
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Committee **Council**
Author **Ian Buchanan Chairman**

Chairman's Report

1. Regional Affairs Committee - LGNZ

A quarterly meeting of Regional Affairs Committee (RAC) was held in our Chamber on 10 February. I have previously circulated a couple of relevant papers from this meeting in the Bulletin. A number of the council chairs involved in RAC are concerned that the meetings are largely a set of presentations for information from various organisations selected by LGNZ. We would prefer to be looking at major issues affecting the sector and developing strategic national approaches where our combined political influence may have some effect. An example of this is the Water Programme of Action where an integrated technical, CEO and political approach is being developed to ensure that the outcomes (National Standards/Policy Statements) etc are consistent with the sector expectations. I think this may surface at the next RAC meeting and we will probably see some major changes in the way this committee works.

One of the matters raised at the last meeting came from a presentation from the CEO of Landcare Research, Dr Warren Parker. It was obvious from this that we lacked adequate engagement at a national level with science providers and science funders, and that a national strategic approach could provide significant benefits to the sector, as opposed to the somewhat ad hoc approach currently prevailing. I will be following up on this with Landcare Research.

2. Transport matters

Discussions with the various agencies involved in the rail contract, trolley bus contract, rolling stock procurement and Western Corridor Plan have advanced over the past month and some progress is being made on all these matters. The various outcomes will be reported through the appropriate committees for consideration as they reach conclusions.

3. Harbour Quays

A series of meetings concerning the Proposed Plan Change 41 from Wellington City Council (WCC) have resulted in a satisfactory agreement on a way

forward that meets both the WCC and CentrePort interests in this development initiative. Work on the detail of this is proceeding with WCC and CentrePort officers and will be reported back through WCC processes.

4. Regional meetings

4.1 Mayoral Forum

Not a great deal of direct relevance to Greater Wellington this time as most areas covered involved Territorial Authorities' responsibilities and initiatives.

4.2 WRS Forum

Progress is being made to flesh out the elements of the strategy following input to the public discussion document.

4.3 Zone 4

Not a lot to report.

5. River management

As evidence that life does exist outside Wellington, I have attended catchment and river management scheme advisory committee/ratepayer meetings at Homewood, Kaiwhata and Kahutara during February.

6. Auckland trip

On 27/28 February I visited Auckland for a couple of purposes. Firstly, to meet with Mike Lee, Auckland Regional Council Chairman, to discuss various matters around transport funding where a common approach could prove useful. In doing this, I attended a full meeting of the Auckland Regional Council (observer only) which was an interesting experience in itself.

Secondly, I attended the launch of a new business-focused environment initiative called Enviro-Smart. The Prime Minister attended the launch and is taking a keen interest in the potential this has for engaging businesses of all types in the concept of environmental sustainability. The programme comes from a pilot initiative from North Shore City along with some extensions in other regions. Greater Wellington, Hutt City and Porirua City Council have been involved in this, and the Auckland launch is signalling a roll-out of this programme nationally. I think this is a very exciting initiative and one that Greater Wellington should consider in the context of our community engagement review. I will follow this up with the Environment Committee Chair. I will also see if we can provide an outline of this programme for councillors in the bulletin.

7. Get-together

Jane and I were delighted to host councillors and senior managers at our home on 26 February. As usual, the Wairarapa weather played its part in what was a very pleasant afternoon. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

8. Request for leave

Cr Turver has requested leave of absence from 18 April to 16 June 2006 as he will be travelling overseas. I recommend Cr Turver's leave be approved.

9. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Approves Cr Turver's leave of absence.*
3. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Ian Buchanan
Chairman