

## **Report 99.639**

File: E/6/1/5 (sm)

1 November 1999

Report to Wellington Regional Council  
From: Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **1. Cr Robert Shaw**

Councillors will join with me in expressing our sincerest sympathy to Cr Shaw and his family on the recent death of his father.

Cr Shields attended the funeral on Council's behalf.

A contribution is being made to the Mary Potter Hospice in lieu of flowers.

#### **2. 1999 Business Development Quality Award**

Our congratulations go to Dr Jane Bradbury and Consents Team, ably lead by Rob Forlong, on winning one of the 1999 Business Development Quality Awards.

These awards are endorsed by Government in sponsoring partnerships with Air New Zealand and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. The awards cover both public and private sectors.

The WRC was one of three winners this year, the others being the Auckland City Council (which was also the overall winner) and Auckland Hospital's staff pre-school.

#### **Recommendation**

*That Council formally congratulates Dr Bradbury, Mr Forlong and the Consents Team on winning a 1999 Business Development Quality Award.*

#### **3. Seminar on Local Government Act**

Crs Bonner, McDavitt, Shields and Turver attended the above seminar on Thursday 28 October. Messrs Stone, Allard and Maguire also attended. It was organised by *Local Government New Zealand*. (Cr Gibson attended at his own initiative).

This Act is one of the largest and most outdated in the statute book. This forum was clearly a very early step towards a very different approach to new "empowering" legislation but the shape of any new legislation will be very clearly dependent on the results of the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

There will clearly be major efforts through *Local Government New Zealand* to present a co-ordinated industry approach.

Those present at the seminar are invited to comment.

### **Recommendation**

*That the information be received.*

#### **4. Local Elections & Polls Act Review**

Councillors have previously been supplied with a copy of a discussion document through the *Information Bulletin*.

The document discusses and poses a range of questions for consideration on processes and policy issues concerning local government elections. Responses to these questions are sought for consideration by a SOLGM working party (which includes *Local Government New Zealand* and Department of Internal Affairs Officers).

Also Councillors Gibson, Laidlaw Shields and I attended a seminar arranged by SOLGM and held in Wellington on Friday 29 October. They might like to report. Also, Messrs Maguire and Bezett attended.

The need to review the Act has been promised for some years by Central Government and has been endorsed by Parliament's Internal Affairs and Local Government Select Committee. The aim is for new legislation to be enacted in time for the local government elections in October 2001.

Submissions on the discussion document are sought by 22 November.

I propose that a **Subcommittee** comprising councillors who attended the Forum plus, say, not more than two other councillors. It is suggested that Councillor Shields should chair the Subcommittee. The quorum would be half the membership or if there is an odd number of members, a simple majority.

The Subcommittee brief would be to

- (a) consider the discussion document and prepare a draft submission for consideration by the Policy & Finance Committee at its meeting set down for 23 November.
- (b) review and report to the Policy & Finance Committee on subsequent documents, such as draft Bills relating to the development of new legislation.

### **Recommendation**

*That Council establishes a subcommittee as proposed above.*

#### **5. Leave of Absence**

- (a) Cr Allen has applied for leave from 29 October until 10 November. He advises he will be "visiting China and, as well, (he) will be checking out the fluoride levels in drinking water".

- (b) Cr Laidlaw has applied for leave of absence from 22 November to 6 December, to visit France.

**Recommendation**

*That leave of absence be granted to Crs Allen and Laidlaw*

STUART MACASKILL  
Chairman