



FAXED

caring about you & your environment

4 August 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Councillor Mike Gibson

From: Howard Stone

You have submitted five questions for “Independent Legal Advice” in connection with the Council’s flood protection policy.

You have asked similar questions before of Audit New Zealand. You were told then that

“As the Council’s auditor, I have ensured that the policy has gone through the appropriate Local Government Amendment (No.3) Act 1996 process, and that the policy has been applied appropriately. I am satisfied that both of these tests have been met” - copy of letter attached.

Since the Audit response makes it clear that the Funding Policy conforms to the legislative requirements and that it also confirms that the whole issue “is a policy decision and is a matter for Councillors to consider” I see no reason for the commissioning of “independent legal advice” at the expense of the ratepayers.

Should you wish to personally pursue this line of enquiry at your own expense, that is of course, at your discretion.

In the circumstances I do not intend to provide any other communication on the issue of “the Council’s approach to rating for the provision of flood protection” as it is raised in your series of questions – copy attached.

HOWARD STONE
General Manager