



**Report**                    **06.582**  
**Date**                     11 October 2006  
**File**                      E/06/01/05

**Committee**            **Council**  
**Author**                **Ian Buchanan Chairman**

## **Chairman's Report**

Apart from the full round of GW meeting commitments, the last month has been dominated by two activities, the Regional Strategy and LGNZ matters.

### **1.        WRS**

All final documents for public consultation were reviewed and signed off as required by Council. I assisted with the councillors' briefing and with the launch of the Strategy on 29 September. While the former was not well attended, the launch was. In both cases, the proposals were well received. The team is now in the middle of a series of public meetings around the region. At the time of writing these have been held at Porirua, Hutt City and Kapiti. Good attendance at Porirua (50), moderate at Hutt (20) and low at Kapiti due to traffic delays. The Kapiti meeting is to be repeated, and a further six meetings are scheduled next week. To date, our presentations and responses appear to have been well received by those taking the time to participate. Submissions close 30 October and hearings are scheduled from 13-15 November.

### **2.        Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)**

I have been involved in a range of activities as a member of the National Council during the past month. These included attendance at a National Council meeting, attending the SOLGM Conference, meeting with the Minister of Transport (total mobility, RLTC composition), meeting with Ministers of Agriculture and Environment (flood risk management), meeting with the Chairman and CEO Transit (various national roading issues, including access to State Highways) and participating in the Local Government Act (LGA) Roadshow. This Roadshow involved a panel of National Council members receiving submissions from the local government sector to collect views on the LGA, including LTCCP and audit processes and anything else anyone wanted to share with us. This is the start of preparation for the review of the LGA scheduled for 2007. I attended sessions in Wellington, Palmerston North, Rodney and Rotorua. Two sessions were held in the South island. LGNZ will provide a Roadshow report in a month or so. My overall impression is that councils are generally comfortable with the LGA, but have a range of issues

around some of the process prescriptions. The Act could benefit from some tidying up of these provisions, but was otherwise seen as generally working.

### **3. Meetings (other than Greater Wellington)**

Chamber of Commerce (x 2)

Allan Read, MAF - Brief on sustainable land management

Andy Duncan, Energy Consultant – energy initiatives

Victoria University – campus bus services

Coastal Highway Group – update briefing

Regional Council northern North Island Chairs, Auckland – review situation

CentrePort - restructure progress

- indoor stadium progress

Biodiversity Seminar – opening address

Visit – East Harbour Regional Park with Cr Laidlaw and officers

### **4. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

**Ian Buchanan**  
Chairman