



**Report**                    **04.281**  
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**Committee**            **Council**  
**Author**                **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **1. Changes 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. When the meeting schedule was developed meetings of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee and Council were scheduled for two consecutive days in late June to deal with Annual Plan and rating matters. Staff now deem that only one day is required. It is therefore recommended that the meetings scheduled for 29 June 2004 be cancelled.

### **2. LGNZ National Conference**

Three Councillors put their names forward for attendance at this year's annual conference. A ballot was conducted and Councillor Barr was the successful candidate. He will join the Deputy Chairperson, a representative from Ara Tahi and myself as attendees at the Conference.

### **3. Submission on Local Government Law Reform Bill (No.3)**

Council staff prepared a pro forma submission on this Bill which aims to correct errors and provide clarity to the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and other related legislation. Submissions closed on Friday 7 May and we were asked to attend the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on 12 May, precluding the ability to have the submission ratified before appearing before the Committee. Key points made in our submission included the desire for councils to retain the ability to choose whether or not to empower a chairperson to exercise a casting vote. Other matters raised were:

- the need to clarify that the decision-making requirements of the LGA do not apply when another statute provides its own decision-making requirements
- the need to notify resolutions passed at extraordinary meetings. We sought exemption for procedural resolutions or for the trigger for notification to be reduced from five to three days

- the desire to extend the transitional provisions in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to allow for remission of rates in relation to storm damage
- support for the proposals, and additional suggestions, to clarify the requirements for access to the rating information database.

#### **4. Standing Orders**

The Council Secretary informs me that good progress is being made with a review of our Standing Orders. As some key matters, such as the casting vote referred to above, are still subject to legislative change, proposals will be brought to us following enactment of the Local Government Reform Bill (No 3). A complicating factor in any review is that the current Standing Orders were made into bylaws, which can only be removed by following the special consultative procedure. This additional procedure will add to the timeframe for completion of the review.

#### **5. Trip to London**

My brief trip to London preceeding the United Cities and Local Governments 2004 Founding Congress was a useful experience. I will be making a presentation at the meeting on congestion pricing in London and the London wetland that I visited, both of which were fascinating and relevant to our Region.

#### **6. Recommendations**

1. *That the Report be received.*
2. *That the meeting schedule for 2004 be amended to delete the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee and Council meetings scheduled for 29 June 2004.*

Report prepared by:

**Margaret Shields**  
Chairperson