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**Committee**            **Council**  
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## **Chairman's Report**

I would be understating things a little to say this past few weeks have been quite busy, and the deadline for this report to be ready reflects that. So my apologies for being a little briefer than what otherwise may have been the case on a number of significant issues affecting this council.

### **1.        WRS**

The speed at which this project is coming together is exciting. Councillors are fully aware of the development of the proposed governance structure and the need for a SOP to be ready for public consultation alongside the strategy proposals. I have been most impressed with how all this has been pulled together by our officers and WRS officers in a very short time frame.

During a two week period I was able to obtain political consensus on prospective appointees for the new WRS Committee, interview these people and take the nominations through the appointment process. I feel we have a very balanced committee now in place to take the WRS through its consultation phase.

### **2.        Transport Issues**

Finalisation of detailed contracts relating to rail operations and EMU purchase has been completed ready for signing. Procurement procedures for the trolley bus contract are agreed and a final contract is under preparation. Dave Benham and myself had the opportunity of hosting the Minister of Transport, Annette King, for lunch. We had a robust discussion over two hours on our main transport issues, focusing on the need to clarify how C and R funding is to be made available through Land Transport NZ. This has significant implications for the Council as differing interpretations lead to significantly different outcomes, particularly for local (GW) share funding. Officials are currently examining this issue for the Minister.

### **3.        CentrePort Harbour / Harbour Quays**

The proposal to collaborate with Wellington City on the establishment of a major indoor sports facility on Port Land adjacent to the stadium has had some public airing. Real progress is being made on this, and I have had a series of

meetings with the Chairman of CentrePort Ltd. A timeframe of 30 September has been set to reach decisions on this, so that the WCC can proceed with the development, either at the harbour site or at the original Kilbirnie site.

#### **4. National Matters**

The last meeting of the Regional Affairs Committee (RAC) was notable for two main reasons. First, the advancement of engagement with central government on water issues, and the government's Water Programme of Action. The RAC Water Group has now established a solid interface with government at officer, CE and political level to collaborate on policy development and implementation issues around water management. Secondly, using the same model adopted for water, a flood risk management and mitigation group has been established by RAC to engage with Central Government on policy and potential national level investment in catchment management. The group consists of two regional chairs, one unitary Mayor and two TA Mayors, together with a group of CEs. I am leading this group, and also provide the political cross-over to the water group as we seek to develop an integrated approach to catchment management across the country. I believe we have a powerful opportunity to collaborate on the development of a sustainable approach to water and catchment management that will have major positive impacts on the way we manage our river and stream catchments, both in urban and rural situations.

#### **5. AHB / Bovine Tb**

On-going concern about the effective delivery of pest control services relating to the Bovine Tb programme, and implications for post Tb programme management, have come to a head. GW is reviewing its delivery mechanisms and I am seeking a robust discussion with the board of AHB about how best to advance our involvement both in vector management and vector control contracts. I am concerned that the continued adherence to a strictly competitive contract model may lead to a significant reduction, or even loss, of GW's capacity to manage effectively major pest species, such as possums, over the long-term. I am hopeful of a resolution to this over the next month or so, and this will come back to Council through the Wairarapa and Rural Services Committee.

#### **6. Representation Review**

The sub-committee established to carry out and advise on this review, under Cr Shields' guidance, has done a thorough job. I have attended all meetings and discussions on this and have been very impressed with the analysis provided and the robustness of the debate around options. A very difficult task that has been well done.

#### **7. CEO Performance Reviews**

This is the subject of a report to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee and is one of the most important tasks for me and the Council for the year.

## **8. Other Matters and Meetings**

- Attended SOLGM conference in Nelson.
- Judging panel for NZ Post Management Excellence Awards for local government practices.
- Discussed the future of iwi management plans and funding with Taranaki Whanui.
- Interview with Enfocus consultants on climate change issues.
- Lower Wairarapa Valley advisory committee to discuss flood damage repair funding.
- Awards presentation – Sustainable Business Network.
- LGNZ Zone 4
- Bruce Robertson OAG – general discussion on performance audit.
- Social marketing reference group
- Film – An Inconvenient Truth – Al Gore on climate change.
- Launch, Wairarapa combined district plan.
- Combined Wairarapa councils meeting – update on transport and flood management / land management issues.
- Select committee presentation on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
- Mayor Brash – WRS issues.
- Sue Kedgely – transport issues.
- Waiwhetu Stream workshop.
- Launch, Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Rotorua centennial project.
- RAC water forum – Christchurch.

**Ian Buchanan**  
Chairman