



Report 06.711
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Committee Council
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Chairman's Report

Another period dominated by a small number of important issues in addition to the normal business of the Council political process, plus the usual range of interesting meetings and functions attended.

1. Wellington Regional Strategy

The round of public meetings (9 in all) were completed by the end of October with public submissions closing on 13 November. As earlier reported, this date was extended from the initial 30 October deadline, meaning hearings were pushed back to 4-6 December. Three days of hearings, including a half day in Upper Hutt, were held by a subcommittee of the Interim WRS Committee (Mayor Guppy, Mayor Milne, Sir John Anderson and myself). A total of 52 oral submissions were heard (439 submissions received). A full summary of issues raised will be available in the WRS Subcommittee Order Paper that will be available to councillors prior to 19 December when the Hearings Subcommittee prepares recommendations for the Interim Committee in late January.

The opinion survey results are now available and make interesting reading. Generally, there appears to be solid support for a regional strategy and for local government to work together to achieve outcomes for the Region. As can be expected, there are a range of views about the level of ratepayer contribution that should be applied. Interestingly, the views expressed by residents across the region were very similar to those of the business community. This is somewhat different from the written submissions where a disproportionate number came from Upper Hutt, and the vast majority of those are opposed to the GW governance and funding proposal. A detailed breakdown of all of the consultation information and survey results will be available.

2. CentrePort/Harbour Quays/Indoor Stadium

Considerable effort has gone into resolving issues around the legal challenge to the BNZ building consents and the possible siting of the proposed indoor stadium on the Harbour Quays area. Very good progress has been made on a range of complex and interrelated matters but conclusions are not yet available.

3. Horizons visit

Another enjoyable and informative visit to our northern neighbours was well attended by councillors. At some stage we may need to re-think these exchanges, particularly the frequency. It is often a little disappointing that, while GW councillors consistently participate en masse, the same cannot always be said of our counterparts. Given that a large part of the benefit comes from councillor interaction over common issues, we need to be sure that such contact is maximised. We are scheduled to go to Auckland in March as a replacement for the aborted visit that coincided with ARC's stadium debate. I will discuss the matter of exchange visits with my colleagues at the other councils and see where we go from here.

4. Meetings/functions other than GW

Mayoral Forum

Launch of Wairarapa MRI – Cuisine School and Wine Marketing

LTNZ Board – informal, with GW councillors

Cadetship signing – with Upper Hutt City Council and Bulk Water

Regional Leaders meeting

Mayor Prendergast – regular update

RLTS – Public meetings – Featherston (abandoned) and Carterton

Engineering Excellence Awards (for LGNZ)

Chamber of Commerce 150 Year celebration

Waiohine bridge opening

Minister of Transport – LGNZ matters

Combined Wairarapa Councils

Zone 4 – LGNZ

CentrePort - AGM

Central/Local Government Forum – LGNZ National Council

LGNZ National Council meeting

RAC Flood Group – 2 meetings plus meeting with 5 Ministers on future collaborative directions.

5. Greetings

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing staff and Councillors a very happy Christmas and relaxing New Year!

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

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Chairman