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Report to Wellington Regional Council
from Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. Strategic Urban Planning & Management in NZ

A conference on the above theme is being held on Monday, 3 and Tuesday, 4 September at the Duxton Hotel here in Wellington. After discussion, I have made arrangements to register Cr Terry McDavitt as the discounted registration fees applied only to 8 June for which there was a substantial discounted registration fee. An outline of the Conference is attached (**Attachment 1**).

Recommendation

That Council approves the attendance of Cr McDavitt at the Strategic Urban and Planning & Management Conference.

2. TranzScenic Rail Services

I have been invited to attend a meeting in Napier, convened by the Mayor of that City (copy attached) (**Attachment 2**). It is not practicable for me to attend that meeting.

I understand there is a suggestion that an application should be made for patronage based funding for the service, at least for the short term. I do not believe it is appropriate for this Council to consider any financial assistance for retaining the Bay Express. The service has no connection with urban commuter services in the Wellington Region that are funded by this Council. Rather its focus is more closely related to tourism and economic development in the Hawkes Bay. If there was to be any local government funding, it would be financed more appropriately from tourism and economic development budgets, such as are available through the Wellington, Porirua and Hutt City Councils' economic development agency.

I will be speaking to the Chairman of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council and will report the outcome of these discussions.

3. Local Government Act Review

Councillors have a copy of the Department of Internal Affairs Discussion Document dealing with the Local Government Review Act.

You are well aware of seminars at Carterton and Porirua being arranged by LGNZ Zone 4 on Monday, 9 July and Wednesday, 11 July.

In addition, I will be attending a further forum on Wednesday, 11 July at LGNZ involving Mayors and CEO's of selected Territorial Authorities and Chairs and CEO's of Regional Councils to discuss how the power of general competence for Regional Councils may work (letter attached) (**Attachment 3**).

There will also be general discussion at the LGNZ Conference on the review of the Legislation.

The importance of the review cannot be understated as it could well have a major impact on the future role of this Council. Councillor Shields, Mr Stone and Mr Allard have been closely involved in the work leading up to this document.

4. Transmission Gully Workshop

Councillors will recall that it was agreed on 29 May that we should hold a Workshop concerning Transmission Gully, to which the Coastal Highway Action Group and Transmac should be invited. We have approached both Groups who are most interested in participating in such a Workshop. However, Mr Dick Jessup of the Coastal Highway Action Group, advises that their Convenor, Sir Roderick Weir, is overseas at the present time and they have asked that the Workshop be postponed until after Sir Rod's return.

Recommendation

That the Report be received.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman

Attachment 1: Outline of the programme (detailed programme is tabled)

Attachment 2: Letter from Mayor of Napier

Attachment 3: Letter from Peter Winder, LGNZ