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Ref:

4 October 1999

Mr F P Maguire
Secretary
Wellington Regional Council
WELLINGTON

BY FAX - AUTODIAL

Dear Mr Maguire

RE: FINANCIAL INVESTMENT OLYMPIC GAMES OPPORTUNITIES

We refer to your enquiries concerning a proposal that your Council make a financial investment in the promotion of the. greater Wellington region economy so as to add to its ability to maximise opportunities created by the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.'

You wish to know whether such a financial investment is within the powers of Council as set Out in the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act).

it is clear from the Act that while the Council is able to be involved with social and economic issues affecting the region, the scope for such involvement is limited,

It is therefore appropriate to deal with each particular issue as it is raised and to adopt a cautious and incremental approach.

As regards your specific request regarding the Olympic proposal, our view is that the proposed expenditure is unlikely to comply with the present legislative provisions.

This is because the Council's functions under the Act are essentially policy and planning function5

If some of the proposed expenditure can be safely categorized as policy and planning expenditure related to the Council's statutory functions, then it is unlikely there would be any difficulty.

However, we cannot see how moneys expended on "promotion" can safely be said to fall within the Act.

Notwithstanding this, there is no barrier to the Council agreeing to meet the administrative costs of the proposed joint committee as part of the Council's research function.

The effect of this would be to enable participants in the joint committee, other than Council, to make a greater financial contribution towards the proposed promotion of the region.

Yours faithfully
OAKLEY MORAN

Peter Cranoey