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Report 01.11

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Report to Wellington Regional Council
from Stuart Macaskill, Chairman

Chairman's Report

1. Happy New Year to you all!

The coming year is going to be a busy one for all of us and for the Council. In particular there are several major issues requiring resolution, e.g. Transport (including Tranz Metro and Transmission Gully) and Water Integration. There is also going to be a raft of legislation to consider.

The Elections in October means some of us will be retiring with a new Council to come into office probably towards the end of October. For me it will be the end of my time as Chairman, but there is much to be achieved and I will be committing myself to the tasks we have in front of us.

2. WRC Triennial Review – Local Government Commission Hearing

The Local Government Commission met in the Council Chamber on 19 December 2000 to hear appeals against the Council's review of membership and basis of elections.

I represented Council at the hearing to explain the process followed during the review of membership and basis of elections and answer questions from the Commission on the reasoning behind the Council's decision. As expected, the Commission showed particular interest in the decision to divide Wellington City into three constituencies. Other issues raised were about reducing Porirua's representation by one, a single Hutt Valley constituency and a combined Porirua/Kapiti constituency. Councillor Gibson also attended to present his appeal.

The Commission appeared impressed with the consultation process taken by the Council. Commissioner Barbara Durbin in particular stated that the Council's analysis of communities of interest was the best example she had seen.

The Local Government Act requires the Commission to release its determination before 29 March 2001. In the past the Commission has released all its determinations on the last available day.

3. Leave of Absence

Cr Jim Allen wishes to apply for leave from the 6th – 14th February 2001 to attend a meeting at Datona Beach USA.

Recommendation

That Cr Allen be granted leave as requested.

4. Recommendation

That the Report be received and the recommendations be adopted.

STUART MACASKILL
Chairman