

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

7 AUGUST 2019

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## AGENDA ITEM E1

### REPORT FROM HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To update Council on activities and issues which have arisen since my last report to Council.

#### **Recommendations**

Her Worship the Mayor recommends that Council:

1. *Receives the Report from her Worship the Mayor.*

#### **1. CEO Appointment**

Mr Harry Wilson began working as Chief Executive Officer on 4<sup>th</sup> June. We welcome Harry to his role with SWDC and look forward to working on implementing the Long-Term Plan and the Annual Plan that will be adopted today.

#### **2. Local Government New Zealand Conference**

The annual LGNZ conference was held at the TSB Centre in Wellington 7 to 9 July, Councillors Carter and Olds, Mr Harry Wilson and I attended. The theme of the conference was "Localism", Climate Change was also a key theme. Key note speakers included Prime Minister Jacinda Arden, Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta, Hon Tariana Turia.

The LGNZ AGM was held on 7<sup>th</sup> July a number of rule changes and remits were debated and voted on.

My report on the conference is attached in Appendix 1.

#### **3. Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy and Provincial Growth Fund**

The Wairarapa has now received three successful funding announcements in the last two months. Wairarapa Water, YETE and Martinborough Dark Sky Society. The Dark Sky Society have received \$100,000.00 to help finalise their application to become a Gold Star Dark Sky Reserve.

These announcements will pave the way for increased earnings from various revenue streams including agriculture, tourism, food and wine and the YETE programme will ensure that some of our at risk youth will be able to enter the job market with appropriate skills.

#### 4. Spatial Plan

The Spatial Plan discussion document is now out for public discussion. This is the first step in the process of engagement with our communities. This plan is looking at the long term, 20 to 30 years, it will give Council a direction for our communities to grow in a managed and planned way rather than a reactive way when subdivision and land use applications are put forward to council.

This is a very exciting project which was endorsed by the community in the LTP.

#### 5. Cowra Breakout 75<sup>th</sup> Commemorations

I will give a verbal briefing on the weekend Commemorations.

#### 6. Meetings

##### 6.1 NZTA New Zealand Land Transport Programme(NLTP) 2018-21

<b>Meeting – Date &amp; Venue</b>	National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) Investment NZTA Macs Centre Wellington 28 June 10-12pm
<b>Key issues from meeting</b>	The Acting CE of NZTA outlined the NLTP The key focus areas are Safety, Access, Environment and Value for Money. Some projects that have not guaranteed funding at this stage they will have to go back to the Regional Transport Plan (RTP) for reprioritization. Projects in the Wellington Region that have been affected are Melling Interchange and Perone to Granada. There is currently no funding for the Masterton to Carterton SH2 improvements. The 3 Wairarapa Councils indicated that they were very disappointed that it appeared that funding would not be available in the short term. The RTP will now be discussed but it is still not clear what projects may receive funding.
<b>Specific item/s for Council consideration</b>	Funding implications for SH2 projects in the Wairarapa

## 7. Other Meetings

NZTA, Martinborough Dark Sky Society, Mayors Professional Development Group, WEDS Food and Tourism combined sector group, Primary Sector Skills, Kuranui, LGNZ AGM and Conference, Dog Hearing, CE Review Committee, Hau Ariki Marae, Wairarapa Water Resilience

## 8. Events

Blue School Matariki, Morning tea for start of Ruamahanga Roads Contract, US Independence Day, Kiwi Rail Launch, PGF Ministerial Funding announcements with Ministers Hon Shane Jones and Hon Willie Jackson, Citizenship Ceremony.

Councillor Jephson will update on other meetings and events he has attended on my behalf.

## 9. Correspondence

### 9.1 Inwards

Date	Inwards Correspondence	Subject
July 2019	Ka-Pai Kids Club – Featherston	Letters and pictures to support installation of drinking fountain in the playground.

### 9.2 Outwards

Date	Outwards Correspondence	Subject
1 July 2019	Simon Fuller, Principal, Kuranui College	Congratulations on all the achievements the college has made in recent weeks.
5 July 2019	Danni Sargent and Warren Hart Featherston Amateur Wrestling Club	Congratulations to all at the club for all their achievements in recent months.
18 July 2019	Ka-Pai Kids Club – Featherston	Thank you for writing to support the installation of a drinking fountain in the playground.
23 July 2019	Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister for Local Government	Seeking advice on the type of support or incentives Government could provide to Councils such as ours when transitioning water responsibilities.

## 10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Government Conference Report

Prepared by: Her Worship the Mayor, Viv Napier

# **Appendix 1 – Local Government Conference Report**

## Mayor Napier - LGNZ Conference 2019

The LGNZ AGM was held prior to the Conference start. The rules and remits were debated and voted on. SWDC delegates voted in line with the advice from council. All rules were approved and the remits were approved except for remit 4 "Parking on Berms" and remit 23 Mayors appointment of Deputy Mayor. I have already sent you the media release from LGNZ.

The conference began with presentations from Prime Minister Jacinta Arden, Hon Tariana Turia and Dave Cull LGNZ Chair. Localism was the conference theme and all the initial speakers covered various aspects of this.

The PM talked about the Central, Local Government relationship and how central government policy can be developed better working with Local Government i.e. co-design. The 4 Wellbeing's are back in the LG Act. Government priorities include Mental Health, sustainable land use, boosting regional economies, RMA and Building Act reform, LG Funding and Financing, 3 Waters and Freshwater reform and Housing.

Dave Cull spoke about a true partnership between Central and Local Government. NZ is a very centralised Government and LG want to see communities directly shaping their futures. Localism discussion document launched. A one size fits all approach won't work.

Tariana Turia described Localism as the mantra which Tangata Whenua live. She gave 3 Whanganui examples to highlight her stance on localism.

Phil O'Reilly spoke about what business wants from Local Government. 8 points – Basics done well and work, Value for money, Logical balance sheet, Easy to do business with, A place where talent wants to live, Liveability, no business rates differential, councillors and councils listening.

Central Government giving legislation to Local Government to manage with no funding. LG need to plan long term and have input from business. LG funding reform needs to happen.

The other major topic for discussion was Climate Change various speakers from students who organised the School Strike 4Climate, to Federated Farmers and Regional Councils spoke about aspects of Climate Change and what Local Government can do. Actions include, listening to the desires of communities, planning for sea level rise and mitigation and adaptation around this, Urgency is required. Funding who will pay is the unknown.

Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta outlined initiatives around the country that she had seen. She stressed that CG and LG need to collaborate as partners. Cabinet will release their decision regarding drinking water in next few weeks.

Arian Orr Governor of the Reserve Bank stressed that banks area d will be assessing the financial impact of Climate Change. The Reserve Bank role is to maintain financial stability.

I attended the Environmental Workshop at Zealandia. The project has ensured native birds are returning to Central Wellington in increasing numbers. Tui, kaka and other native birds are now in large numbers. The project has the Zealandia Reserve fully pest free. There is also the Pest Free Wellington project on Miramar Peninsula that is trapping rats, mice, possums and ferrets etc in every section on the peninsula. Excellent results.

The final day saw presentations about water, acknowledging that it is not just farmers who need to make changes “we are all in this together”. Iwi are a partner along with, central government, and public.

NZ is water wealthy but have to use it better. Suggestion that a quota system similar to the fishing quota could be used for water. Allocation is the key.

There was a very good presentation on community engagement which I will forward to everyone once the presentations are made available.

The final speaker was Colin Ellis who spoke about Creating Change – Leadership. He discussed Emotional Intelligence and the different types of personalities.

For me the key messages were; doing the best you can, involving our communities at the start of any new initiatives and projects, discussing Climate Change and the possible impacts on our communities and what we need to do to mitigate and adapt for our district to overcome the impact, using water sustainably including measures we have already discussed to ensure each household has emergency supplies, working with our neighbours and central government agencies to implement the wellbeing policies from Central Government.

If Central Government begin to let Local Government do more in local communities and with a different way of funding I believe there are exciting opportunities for councils.