

# **SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**13 DECEMBER 2017**

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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 information.*
2. *Recommends that the two SWDC representatives on the Wairarapa Council Transition Board are Mayor Viv Napier and Cr Brian Jephson*
3. *This recommendation will only be required if the poll for an amalgamated Wairarapa Council is the majority view.*
4. *Approve the SWDC submission to the Remuneration Authority regarding Part Three of Consultation Document.*

#### **1. Local Government Commission**

The results of the poll will now be known. As this report was written before the result and if the result confirms that an amalgamated Wairarapa Council will be formed, this council will be required to appoint two members to the Transition Board.

I would like to recommend that Councillor Brian Jephson and I are the SWDC representatives to the Transition Board which will be set up by the Local Government Commission.

There is now a definitive result, I would like to thank everyone who has worked on various proposals, the staff of all councils who have been living with job uncertainty for many years and Mr Crimp who has worked tirelessly to feed information to LGC, keep staff informed, keep elected members and the Maori Standing Committee informed and also keep sane through the process. He also has experienced job uncertainty, so thank you Paul for your professionalism.

We now can move into whatever phase this result will take us.

## **2. Long Term Plan**

Eight sector group meetings were held the discussions were wide ranging and very positive and proactive. Some common themes have appeared in most of the groups, these include spatial planning, housing (affordable homes), rail and transport, tourism opportunities. I would like to thank all those people who contributed to these groups.

Ganesh Nana CEO of Berl presented to the LTP Working Party and other interested Community Board and Maori Standing Committee members. His presentation was very thought provoking.

Ganesh stated he wanted us to be taken out of our comfort zone and be thinking about the district and how we manage growth proactively. He stated he is not your usual economist who is concentrating on numbers but he also takes in social cohesion, sustainability, equity and economic growth when he is looking into future growth predictions.

The world and New Zealand demographics are changing rapidly there will be fewer current working age people but those now working will work longer. The South Wairarapa is in a good geographical position and economic position to continue to grow.

He mentioned that the funding model for Local Government needs to change, current rating options are unsustainable. Working collaboratively and in partnerships with a variety of partners including Iwi will be the successful future model.

The LTP Working Party also had a presentation from Mike Reid of LGNZ about Community Boards. Mike gave us an insight to the opportunities available for Community Boards to operate and also gave examples of other Community Boards around the country.



## **3. Season's Greetings**

I would like to extend my best wishes to Councillors, Community Board, Maori Standing Committee members and all SWDC staff and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I would like to thank you all for your dedication, hard work and desire to make South Wairarapa a great place to live, work and play. I especially want to thank Paul Crimp for his work, leadership and guidance I very much appreciate all you do for SWDC and the community.

I hope all the residents of and visitors to South Wairarapa have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and I look forward to working with you all in 2018.

#### 4. Meetings

CDEM and Mayoral Forum were held on 1 December I will give a verbal update.

<b>Meeting – Date &amp; Venue</b>	Hill Road Committee Greytown Town Centre 13 November
<b>Present</b>	Mayors from SWDC, CDC, MDC, UHCC, Cr Adrienne Staples GWRC, Mark Owen NZTA, Martin Napier AA Wairarapa, Sandy Walker Road Transport Users, Police,
<b>Key issues from meeting</b>	Mark Owen gave an update of the Remutaka Rd Road Works, Corner widening, to ensure there is more room when large trucks meet, should be completed by early December.  Re surfacing along SH2 in various locations is taking place The Geographic Board has approved the spelling from Rimutaka to Remutaka, signs will be changed over time, Stopping Bays will be renamed “courtesy Bays” hopefully this will encourage slow drivers to pull over. Speed limits and SH2 Masterton to Carterton safety projects were discussed.

<b>Meeting – Date &amp; Venue</b>	Regional Transport Committee 21 November Westpac Stadium Wellington
<b>Present</b>	Wellington Region Mayors and Chair of GWRC GWRC staff and NZTA Regional Manager Emma Speight
<b>Key issues from meeting</b>	Let’s Get Welly Moving – there is an option paper currently out for Public consultation and SWDC is encouraged to submit. This project takes in all transport modes from Ngauranga to Wellington airport so it is vital we have our say as it effects Wairarapa travelers.  The Annual Regional Land Transport Plan monitoring report was presented RLTP review was finalized and will be released for limited consultation. NZTA gave an update on major projects.

<b>Meeting – Date &amp; Venue</b>	Regional Strategy Committee 21 November Westpac Stadium Wellington
<b>Present</b>	Wellington Region Mayors and Chair of GWRC Mayor Patterson is our representative

	GWRC staff, WREDA Chair Peter Biggs and staff.
<b>Key issues from meeting</b>	<p>The WREDA Annual report was presented, this is available in hard copy or online.</p> <p>There are 6 specific projects known as the Big 6</p> <p>The new governments Regional Economic Development and Primary industries Fund was discussed. The Wairarapa councils will be meeting with WREDA on 18 December to develop proposals to be submitted. Details are still not known but the coalition agreement indicates where spending will be targeted.</p> <p>Housing initiatives were also discussed</p>

<b>Meeting – Date &amp; Venue</b>	<p>Regional and Provincial Sector Meeting</p> <p>16 and 17 November</p> <p>Macs Conference Centre</p> <p>Wellington</p>
<b>Present</b>	<p>Rural and Provincial councils</p> <p>LGNZ</p> <p>A variety of speakers including Minister of Local Government Nanaia Mahuta and Minister of Housing Phil Twyford</p>
<b>Key issues from meeting</b>	<p>The key messages were that Central Government is wanting to work closer, more collaboratively and in partnership with Local Government. The Government is looking to address housing, equity, infrastructure and climate change and they believe they will not be successful unless there is a true working relationship with Local Government.</p> <p>Regional and Provincial Development is a key to their success. Provincial rail, forestry, climate change, infrastructure, water and housing were the key priorities.</p> <p>Councils have a role in all of these areas to partner and work with the government.</p> <p>There will be a look at new options for funding local government and there will be new rules that will be announced after the release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> enquiry into the Havelock North water crisis.</p> <p>There was a strong indication that the 4 Wellbeing's will be reinstated back into the Local Government Act.</p> <p>There was no mention of amalgamations.</p> <p>LGNZ gave an update that concentrated on what the new government is likely to do in this term.</p> <p>Various other speakers.</p>

## 5. Events

I attended the 2017 Police Awards Ceremony at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington, This was the first time that a combined regional awards ceremony had been held. Wairarapa Police were among the recipients recognised for their service to the Police.

I also attended the Mayors Task Force for Jobs Apprenticeship Awards at Cophorne, Masterton. It was a privilege to present awards to South Wairarapa apprentices and businesses. It was a very special night as I got to present awards to two recipients I had taught at primary school. It would be wonderful to see more South Wairarapa businesses participating in the award ceremony.

The Featherston Incident – 2018 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Featherston Incident on 22 February. Preparations are underway to ensure this milestone is commemorated in a greater way.

Armistice Day 2018 – a group has been formed to organise the unveiling of the Featherston Camp Sculpture and the commemoration of the 100years since the end of WW1.

## 6. Correspondence

### 6.1 Inwards

DATE	INWARDS	SUBJECT
3 November 2017	Leslie Austin	Featherston Community Board and Pedestrian Crossings.
13 November 2017	Robin Dunlop, Chair, Destination Wairarapa.	Raising concern that WREDA might be assuming the overarching marketing role of the Rimutaka Cycle Trail.
18 October 2017	Kieran McAnulty MP	Congratulations on winning the small town category of the 2017 Keep NZ Beautiful Awards.
22 November 2017	Jami-Lee Ross MP	Advising role as National Party spokesperson for Local Govt.

### 6.2 Outwards

DATE	OUTWARDS	SUBJECT
24 October 2017	Rt Hon Jacinda Adern	Congratulations on becoming Prime Minister and leading the formation of the new government.
1 November 2017	Ian and Marcia Hunter	Thanks for request that consideration be given to naming of a street after former Mayor John Read.
2 November 2017	To Whom it May Concern	Letter of support for NZ Cycle Classic.
2 November 2017	International Dark Sky Association	Seeking recognition for Martinborough as a 3K City as a first step to becoming an International Dark Sky Reserve.
8 November 2017	NZTA	Requesting that as NZTA replace street lighting that 3000k street lights be installed in South Wairarapa to support International Dark Sky Reserve economic plan for region.
10 November 2017	Seigneur de Sercq, Sark	Recognising Sark's status as a Dark Sky Reserve and the

<b>DATE</b>	<b>OUTWARDS</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
		potential to develop a future partnership in this regard with Martinborough.
15 November 2017	Chair, Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency	Seeking advice on the role of WREDA in respect of the Rimutaka Cycle Trail and other trails.
27 November 2017	To Whom it May Concern	Supporting the Featherston Christmas Parade.
28 November 2017	To Whom it May Concern	Supporting the Martinborough Christmas Parade.
November 2017	To individual South Wairarapa students at Kuranui College	Congratulations on your award at this year's Senior prize giving.

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix 1 –Remuneration Authority Feedback

Prepared By: Her Worship the Mayor, Viv Napier

# **Appendix 1 – Remuneration Authority Feedback**

**South Wairarapa District Council**

**Remuneration Authority Feedback re Part Three of Consultation Document**

**Notes from working party meeting 15 November 2017**

**1. With regard to the proposed factors to be used for sizing councils, are there significant influences on council size that are not recognised by the factors identified?**

Yes, geographic size of district and the ratio of ratepayer numbers to land area. Small councils with wide population spread involve more time travelling to cover the whole area versus a metropolitan area with a large number of ratepayers in a small land area. This also means a large number of rural roads to manage with small numbers of ratepayers serviced by these roads but they all need to be maintained.

We also believe there should be some recognition in the remuneration for TAs with several distinct urban communities compared to those with one urban community. E.g. SWDC have just under 7000 ratepayers but we have three water supplies, three waste water systems, three libraries, three sets of parks, halls etc. No adjustment is made for this versus Carterton DC for example which has a similar number of ratepayers but only one urban community and set of facilities to manage. CDC councillors pay level is similar to SWDC's.

**2. Are there any factors that we have identified that you believe should not be used and why?**

No

**3. When measuring council assets, do you support the inclusion of all council assets, including those commercial companies that are operated by boards?**

Yes

**4. If not, how should the Authority distinguish between different classes of assets?**

Some adjustment should be made for the number of distinct urban communities and related infrastructure as discussed in point 1 above.

**5. Are you aware of evidence that would support or challenge the relativity of the factors for each type of council?**

Suggest smaller/rural TAs be treated similarly to the Regional Council model but with deprivation added as this incorporates geographic size. Also some factor for ratio of ratepayers to geographic area would be helpful as well as recognition of the number of distinct communities being supported and number of sets of infrastructure to be managed.

**6. If you believe other factors should be taken into account, where would they sit relative to others?**

Rural Councils are more of a "community" and seems to be a semi-voluntary role in spite of the fact that all Councillors are very accessible to ratepayers and are approached on an almost daily basis by ratepayers about one issue or another. Currently regional council remuneration is considerably more and yet they are less visible/accessible and less "hands on" than those in rural TAs. There should be some financial recognition for the loss of privacy of Councillors in small communities. e.g. Hawkes Bay RC Councillors are currently paid \$50K



pa, SWDC Councillors are paid \$17K pa. We don't believe the workload of our Councillors would be one third of that of a regional councillor.

Rural Councillors seem to be underpaid in comparison to metropolitan Councillors and yet there is probably less capacity for them to hold down another paid role at the same time as the Council role. As the Council role isn't paid at a sufficient level to help support their household fully, (a family cannot live on \$17K pa), this limits the types of people who are able to put themselves forward for these roles. This potentially limits diversity on rural Councils and potentially means Councils are not representative of the whole community.

We would also like to see primary caregivers, who are elected members, being compensated for additional childcare due to the timings of a large number of meetings (i.e. in the evenings) that these members need to attend to make sure they are being as effective as possible in their roles.

**7. Should mayor/chair roles should be treated as full time?**

Yes

**8. If not, how should they be treated?**

N/A

**9. Should there be a "base" remuneration level for all mayors/chairs, with additional remuneration added according to the size of the council?**

Yes and for Councillors and Community Board members as well.

**10. If so, what should determine this "base remuneration"?**

Use all factors mentioned above i.e. Population, geographic area, ratio of population to geographic area, total operating expenditure, infrastructure assets (including the number of separate sets of water/wastewater/parks & reserves), deprivation, visitor nights, and the number of distinct communities within the district.

**11. Should councillor remuneration be decided by each council within the parameters of a governance/representation pool allocated to each council by the Remuneration Authority?**

No, we like the independence of the RA setting the pay rates and we think it could cause conflicts between Councillors regarding who gets paid what. We believe it is up to the Mayor and Councillors to ensure the workload of working parties/committees each Councillor is involved with is shared evenly between Councillors.

**12. If so, should each additional position of responsibility, above a base councillor role, require a formal role description?**

No, we think this would be too limiting as roles tend to "flex" and evolve during the triennium so we wouldn't want to be tied to a specific JD or have to update JDs during the term of office.

**13. Should each council be required to gain a 75% majority vote to determine the allocation of remuneration across all its positions?**

No we don't think this would be good for the relationships around the Council table and could lead to disputes unnecessarily. We like the independence the RA determination brings.

**14. Should external representation roles be able to be remunerated in a similar way to council positions of responsibility?**

Our concern would be where the additional funding for this would come from and the potential impact on rates. If the base remuneration is set at a realistic level to reflect the workload we don't believe this is necessary.

**15. Do the additional demands placed on CCO board members make it fair for elected members appointed to such boards to receive the same director fees as are paid to other CCO board members?**

We don't currently have any CCOs but believe Councillors should be compensated for the role in addition to their Councillor pay due to the additional risks of directorships e.g. potential Health & Safety liabilities.

**16. Should community board remuneration always come out of the council governance/representation pool?**

We don't agree with the pool method for the reasons stated above in points 11 & 13. Adding CB members to the pool would add even more risk of breakdown in working relationships.

**17. If not, should it be funded by way of targeted rate on the community concerned?**

No we would prefer to leave the funding for CBs as is. Having a targeted rate could lead to inequity between communities within the one TA which could lead to ratepayer dissatisfaction.

**18. If not, what other transparent and fair mechanisms are there for funding the remuneration of community board members?**

We think there should be some consideration of additional pay for Councillors who are also CB or Standing committee members. This could possibly be a percentage of normal CB fees e.g. 75-80%

**Commented [JMGCS1]:** Does this contradict earlier comments ?

**19. Is it appropriate for local government remuneration to be related to parliamentary remuneration, but taking account of differences in job sizes?**

Yes this seems the most relevant base to use as it's the closest comparable type of role.

**20. If so, should that the relativity be capped so the incumbent in the biggest role in local government cannot receive more than a cabinet minister?**

Yes

**21. If not, how should a local government pay scale be determined?**