

Council Report

14 December 2011

Prepared by Cr Napier

Meeting with Office Auditor General in regards to Wairarapa Moana – 9 November

Glenn Bunny, Vanessa Tipoki and I met with 2 members of the Office of the Auditor General. The meeting also had representatives of DOC & GWRC. The purpose of the meeting was fact finding and understanding how environmental projects can be successfully implemented with collaboration between DOC and other parties.

There was a general discussion about the Wairarapa Moana project and a trip around the lake giving the OAG an insight into what had happened and what was planned with the project.

Armistice Day – 11 November- Commemoration at Featherston War Memorial

Gold Star Award – 12 November - Garry Baker- Greytown Fire Brigade

Mayoral Forum Workshop – 15 November- Upper Hutt- Workshop to discuss WRS

Central NZ Summit – 16 November – Wellington – Mayors from Taranaki across to Hawkes Bay south to Wellington and the top of the South Island.

Federated Farmers – 16 November – Wellington – Cocktail party in conjunction with their National executive meeting.

Rural & Provincial Meeting 17-18 November – Wellington –

Civic Assurance – Councils need to support the capital raising for Civic Assurance as very few companies are willing to offer insurance to NZ.

The Thai floods will cost more than the Japanese earthquake. Many global companies are unable to get parts that are made in Thailand eg; Toyota and Nikon

FAR – Financial assistance rate baseline review.- A full review of the fund that has been in place since 1984 is due to be started soon. NZTA want lots of input from councils and are open to suggestions. They want the process in 18mths.

There is also a review of the Road Safety Maintenance and the report is due in March.

Managing Rising Community Outcomes in LTP process- Panel discussion – 4

CEO's – The CEO's from Waitaki, New Plymouth, Queenstown Lakes and Tararua gave brief presentations on where they see the 1st year of the LTP going and how they are talking to their communities.

2 councils looking at minimum of 8% rate increase as CPI is 4% then interest, insurance and NZTA subsidy at 2% + meeting drinking water standards and the ETS 2%.

All noted that community engagement was key and a very long term goals. Must work in collaboration with others eg Chamber of Commerce, tourism boards other councils etc

Roading -

LGNZ – the government policy statement has been finalised:

- the new assessment criteria is “effective, efficient, safe”
- the Strategy and programme are to be combined for Regional land transport.
- There are changes to the structure of RLTC's , outside members will become discretionary eg AA, Votes only held by 2 Regional Council and all TA's 1 vote.
- Tolling & public private partnerships provisions to be simplified

- Regional fuel tax provisions removed as an option for funding

LGNZ is getting a Berl report on rural and provincial sector – in the last decade there has been a 70% increase in exports from dairying, apples, meat, logs, kiwifruit and wine. Value \$21763 million.

The Road maintenance taskforce is reporting back to the Minister by March – looking at procurement, standardisation and consistency in contracts, local roads hierarchy, collaboration and discount rates.

Federated Farmers – in relation to rural roading.

There is a huge change in how Feds want to operate, and work in collaboration with LG to lobby the government. Also want to work with councils in regards to better rating models for roads.

LGNZ –

Overview of major parties manifestos re Local government. No forced amalgamations only if communities drive it.

Nationals key aim is for councils to help drive economic growth and creation of jobs.

Support stronger regional cooperation.

Update and discussion on Remuneration Authority review - questionnaire

Upper North Island Strategic Alliance and implications – Auckland, 3 regional councils (BOPRC, NRC, WRC), Hamilton Tauranga & Whangarei.= 53% of population, \$70 bill GDP, 36% state highways, 56% total freight movements.

Long term collaboration initially working on; Economic development, transport (ports, airports, roads), tourism.

Smaller councils will be kept informed of what is happening.

Christchurch Natural Hazards RMA, risk –

EQC – Christchurch has impacted on how insurance companies see the risk. They are now risk averse. Need to take holistic approach and consider landuse, building practices, insurance and risk tolerance.

Discussion around type of houses that are best suited to NZ ie, wooden floors, wooden framing and cladding and corrugated iron roofing ie. Flexible in earthquakes.

Compliance for level of earthquake risk. LG – 67% minimum. It will be interesting to see what level the Royal Commission comes out with.

Other hazards – Part 6 & 7 being amended taking into account climate change and level of protection communities want for flood protection.