

COUNCILLOR REPORT
for
South Wairarapa District Council Meeting
Wednesday 5 April 2017

WRFD Board	Max Stevens Council Representative.
Meeting – Date & Venue	Friday 17 th March 8.30am Masterton Fire Station. NRFA Chairs Meeting 29 th March Silverstream Retreat Lower Hutt.
Key issues from meeting	<p>WRFD; Financials on track, addition expenditure in training will be covered by EMACE reimbursement fund via NRFA. Restricted Fire season lifted on 6th March. Tinui Fire Depot building consent granted, water and sewerage levies paid. Board planning transition to Fenz and dissolution.</p> <p>Fenz; The transition is taking up considerable time, our PRFO is probably spending 2 days a week assisting with the move to FENZ. The Enlarged Rural Fire Board Chairs have been meeting to both assist and being kept up to speed with the transition, a lot of the information has been in draft form and the NZ Fire Commission has been seeking feedback via their various Transition Project advisor groups. The WRFD is very well placed and is putting planning in place to ensure that the handover and dissolution occurs without any problems. This will mean further meetings with Councils to ensure that there is a good understanding that on the 1st of July it is business as usual. The MOU the WRFD has with Councils requires to be transferred to FENZ to handle the lease of depots so that our Volunteers continue to operate, Fenz after the 1st July will negotiate/discuss the ongoing use and access to the depots. The Fire Commission Board is about to appoint a new CEO for Fenz, the full Transition and integration process will take 2 years. The Fire and Emergency boundaries will initially be the current Fire Service boundaries regions to minimise disruption new regions will be consulted on during the integration period. Advisory Committees will also be appointed during this time. A national Stakeholders Forum will be held on the 27th April, Mayors and CEOs will probably be invited.</p>
Specific item/s for Council consideration	<p>Transfer of leases/Depots Rural Fire to continue uninterrupted, VFFs carry on, business as usual. No funds required from Council after 1st July however following financial year fire levies component of Insurance premiums will increase. Urban Bylaws re fire permitting need to remain in place until Fenz has new procedures in place.</p>

General

The transition is possibly taking longer than they anticipated some Rural Fire Districts require a lot more work than the Enlarged Rural Fire Districts.

However the Fenz Transition staff are doing a great job to ensure that there will be minimal disruption to the Fire Services.

Many thanks Max Stevens.