

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors

FROM: Chief Executive

REFERENCE: C780

DATE: 12 May 2005

SUBJECT: CEOs Report for April/May 2005

STAFFING

We have just completed a 12 month exercise to review staff grading against the New Zealand labour market. The exercise was carried out by a small committee comprising management and union representatives, assisted by an independent job evaluation consultant.

The exercise is now complete and introduced. Generally, it has not produced radical changes but in a number of job positions has tended to widen the steps available within an occupation group. While this Council has been fortunate with its level of job retention and staff loyalty, we need to be mindful of remuneration changes occurring in the New Zealand market. Councillors will probably be aware of the significant increases in remuneration being paid by central government for competent policy analysts and policy developers. Likewise, there is a national shortage of qualified engineers.

NELSON REGIONAL SEWERAGE BUSINESS UNIT

Council at its meeting on 24 February 2005 agreed to the appointment of a second independent (non elected) member of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit. We have for some years paid the independent member a fee based on \$100.00 per hour for their expert advice at Board level. With the recent changes to the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit governance structure it has been agreed with Nelson City Council that any time, up to three members of the five member board could be non elected.

To clarify the remuneration situation it is proposed all independent members of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit be paid the same fee ie \$100.00 per hour and this would be met as a governance cost for the Business Unit

Recommendation

THAT Council confirms that independent (non elected) members of the Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit continue to be paid a fee of \$100.00 per hour chargeable to the Business Unit.

GOVERNMENT'S DRINKING WATER SUBSIDY FUND

I enclose a media release providing brief details of this new water subsidy scheme which has funding of \$137 million over the next 10 years. The rules and criteria for accessing this subsidy fund will be developed over the next few months. It is understood that it will apply to smaller communities and as such, will likely be a great help to Tasman District's efforts to provide upgraded water schemes to its smaller communities. A number of which have been identified in the draft water and sanitary services assessment.

We have congratulated the Minister on this new subsidy fund.

STRATEGIC WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

This Committee overviews Council's strategic water needs within the District over the long term. The Committee comprises three Councillors plus an Iwi representative supported by key staff. Current members are Councillors R Kempthorne (Chair), T King, Mr G Thomas representing Iwi interests and ex Councillor D Ogilvie.

Following the October triennial elections, it is appropriate to replace Mr Ogilvie with a new Councillor and it is recommended that Council confirm the appointment of Cr J Inglis to this position.

Recommendation

THAT Council appoints Cr J Inglis to the Strategic Water Resources Committee.

COUNCILLOR LUNCHESES

The makeup of Council lunches has been a contentious issue over a number of years. In an endeavour to address concerns staff recently circulated to Councillors a questionnaire concerning various lunch menu options. I enclose a report from Tina Marshall on the outcome of this survey.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT STANDARDS AIR QUALITY

We have expressed strong concerns and reservations to the Ministry for the Environment at ministerial and chief executive level, that the currently worded draft regulations are unworkable and severely flawed. As currently worded regional councils after 1 September 2005, when considering renewal of an air discharge resource consent application from an existing consent holder, would very likely have to decline the consent renewal outright. The Ministry are talking about a possible offset clause in this situation, but this is again fraught with difficulties.

The problem affects virtually all regions in New Zealand and unless solved, will cause major problems with the closure of hospital boilers, school boilers and major industries.

R G Dickinson

Chief Executive

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