

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors
FROM: Chief Executive
REFERENCE:
DATE: 3 August 2005
SUBJECT: CEO's Report for July/August 2005

STAFFING

Negotiations for the collective employment contract for Council Officers are continuing. We have made a formal offer to the Union and are awaiting a response.

Customer Services Manager Appointment

Following staff interviews we have appointed Suzanne Westley to be the new Customer Services Manager effective immediately. She will be responsible for working with Departmental Managers and key staff to develop the necessary organisation/training/systems to enable Council to move to a centralised one-stop shop customer service function when the new building becomes available.

This is a major organisational systems change for Council and will take some consideration organisation and training to achieve.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The project is progressing at pace. The roof is due to go on the three storey office block by month end and building will be weatherproof shortly thereafter.

Unfortunately, we now have to put up with the noisy process of joining the new building into the existing front office and this will inevitably cause some further disruption and staff relocation. Such is the price of progress.

MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

Tasman District Council has been a financial member of this organisation in recent years. Its subscription is \$2,000.00 plus GST per annum. The purpose of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs is to increase public awareness of the need for jobs in our economy. While this objective was extremely worthwhile and meaningful five years

ago, one has to question the need in the present (full employment) economy and it is recommended we discontinue this subscription and association.

It has been pointed out that it would probably be more meaningful for Tasman District Council to make a direct contribution to the Job Track Programme at Waimea College. This programme successfully places a significant number of school leavers in useful employment.

Council guidance is sought on this matter.

ABEL TASMAN FORESHORE - RESERVE STATUS

The Minister of Conservation recently announced his intention to gazette this surveyed foreshore area as reserve. Once this has happened, there will be an administration committee under Section 9 of the Reserves Act comprising the Regional Conservator and the Tasman District Council CEO.

There will also be provision for a special committee to produce a separate management plan for this foreshore reserve. This committee will comprise one member of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board, the Regional Conservator, Tasman District Council CEO, a Tasman District Councillor and an Iwi representative.

In preparing a draft management plan for public consultation, this management plan committee will liaise/workshop with the Abel Tasman Advisory Forum, which comprises land owner representatives, commercial operator representatives and Manawhenua iwi.

NATIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

During the month, I attended a one day specialist workshop at Auckland Regional Council concerning ways in which future National Land Transport Programmes can be better organised and facilitated. It was extremely interesting to hear of the frustrations/arbitrariness that has been created in this critical infrastructural planning area over the last 12 months.

This working party has produced a paper for Land Transport New Zealand and Transit to consider how to improve the system from next year onwards.

R G Dickinson
Chief Executive