

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: David Ward
DATE: 7 October 2005
SUBJECT: Adoption of Council's 2005 Annual Report

PURPOSE

This report is prepared for the purpose of allowing the adoption of Council's 2005 statutory report.

BACKGROUND

Audit field work has been completed and an unqualified audit report has again been attached to the document. It is a statutory requirement that this document is formally adopted by 31 October 2005.

DISCUSSION

While the 2005 Annual Report lists in detail our major achievements against annual plan targets, some of the highlights of 2004/2005 included:

- Continued maintenance of 1,660 kilometres of roading throughout the district.
- Construction of the Warring Car Park in Richmond and Fairfax Street Car Park in Murchison.
- Investment of \$420,000 in new footpaths and walkways throughout the district.
- Upgrading Cooks Creek and Aorere Bridges on the Collingwood-Bainham Road.
- Completion of Stage I coastal protection works at Marahau.
- A review of our refuse collection services and recycling services throughout the district.
- Completion of stormwater pipework improvements in Richmond.
- Commencement of the Wai-iti Dam supplementary water supply which is due for completion in November 2005.
- An upgrade of the Redwood Valley water supply scheme.
- Sealing of Hamama Road under Council's low traffic sealing policy, coupled with a replacement of the pipeworks for the Hamama water scheme.
- An increase in the number of books held at Council's libraries.
- Commenced construction of a new Council administration building in Richmond.
- The transfer of responsibility for the Mapua toxic site rehabilitation works to the Crown.

- Processing 1,691 of resource consent applications and 1,955 applications received under the Building Act.
- Continued to foster a number of projects proposed under the Community Facilities Rate and including the Moutere Hills Sport and Cultural Centre, Tasman Tennis Centre and Saxton Field Development.

From a financial perspective Council has again reported a small surplus in its general rate account for the 2004/05 financial year amounting to \$213,000. This increase is driven by the growth curve that continues within our district. Our proposed targeted rate collection was slightly below budget as a direct result of some major projects not being undertaken during this financial year and therefore the need to wait for these being negated.

The value of Council's fixed assets and infrastructural assets is increased by \$27 million to a figure of \$743 million largely as a result of asset revaluations and capital works undertaken on a number of projects that are detailed elsewhere in this document.

The value of term loans has increased by \$13 million to \$57 million albeit that Council repaid \$4.7 million of term loan during the course of the year. This amount was considerably higher than the budgeted level. Council's cash position remains strong at 30 June 2005.

Council's overall equity has increased from \$730 million to \$745 million at 30 June 2005.

Most significantly our auditors have again attached an unqualified audit report to this document which clearly indicates a high level of satisfaction with Council's internal systems and practices.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the hard working staff and Councillors for their contributions during the past year. The growth pressures that Council has encountered in recent years will no doubt continue into the future and these impact in the way that we plan, prioritise and propose to fund those activities and projects that will be included in our Long Term Council Community Plan which will be released for public comment in late March 2006.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council's 2005 Annual Report containing an unqualified audit opinion be adopted.

David Ward
Corporate Services Manager