

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors

FROM: Chief Executive

REFERENCE: C780

DATE: 27 October 2005

SUBJECT: Chief Executive's Report for October 2005

STAFFING

I am pleased to advise that we have reached agreement with the Union Executive of terms and conditions for a two year collective employment contract commencing 1 July 2005. The general terms and agreement are currently being taken to a series of stopwork meetings with union members to enable a membership ratification of the document to take place.

We are pleased that this dispute has been resolved satisfactorily as unresolved industrial disputes are very wearing on organisation morale and we now have virtually two years' budgeting certainty on labour costs.

SITE VISIT/WORKSHOP

Councillors are reminded of the site visit and workshop to be held Thursday 17 November. We will be visiting Extract Solutions Plant and Nutri-zeal Ltd in Appleby, following this up with an informal workshop.

EXTRAORDINARY VACANCIES IN A COUNCIL OR COMMUNITY BOARD

There has recently been an incident where the process regarding extraordinary vacancies was questioned. I enclose a copy of the Local Electoral Act 2001 Section 117 which deals with this subject. Essentially this says that if there is a vacancy for a Councillor or Community Board member, more than one year before the next triennial election (October 2007) then the vacancy must be filled by an election.

However, if the vacancy occurs within 12 months of an election the process is to either fill the vacancy by appointment or determine that the vacancy is left unfilled.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

I enclose some recommendations from the Golden Bay Community Board from the Board's October meeting. Where relevant, these recommendations have been passed onto appropriate staff.

I refer to the last recommendation:

“THAT the GB Community Board recommends that Tasman District Council joins the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority and co-operates with other Councils in encouraging Local Government NZ in an effort to induce Central Government to convince the power companies that the amount they pay private people for power supplied back into the national grid be increased to, say, 9 cents per unit.”

Comment

There does appear to be a significant anomaly where power companies pay about \$0.02 per unit to private generators of electricity which is a fraction of the cost of power sold by the power companies. We would certainly agree with the Community Board that this huge power price disparity gives no encouragement whatsoever to private power generators. Indeed, a number of potential private power generators have not gone ahead with projects because they are completely uneconomic at the current purchase price of \$0.02 a unit.

It is recommended that Council agree to write to Local Government New Zealand pointing out this anomaly and seeking their assistance in having this price disparity addressed.

I also enclose a copy of Minister of Energy's reply of 13 September 2005 to Golden Bay Community Board.

PUBLIC FORUMS

There has been some discussion in recent times concerning public forums taken longer than 30 minutes at the commencement of a meeting. I enclose a copy of my memorandum of 20 September 2005 to our Service Centres Manager explaining the correct procedure for allowing a public forum to go over 30 minutes.

R G Dickinson
Chief Executive

<http://tdctoday:82/shared documents/meetings/council/full council/reports/2005/rcn051103 report ceos.doc>