

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Councillors  
**FROM:** Chief Executive  
**REFERENCE:** C780  
**DATE:** 14 August 2006  
**SUBJECT:** CEOs Report for July/August 2006

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## COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

It has been suggested that Council consider merging the Resource Management Policy Committee with the Environment and Planning Subcommittee.

The Resource Management Policy Committee, chaired by Cr Kempthorne, comprises all Councillors and it meets normally once every six weeks (or more often as plan policy demand dictates).

The Environment and Planning Subcommittee, chaired by Cr O'Regan, comprises Crs Kempthorne, Wilkins, Higgins and Borlase and it meets quarterly and is more of an overview committee of a number of Environment and Planning staff responsibilities.

Details of the scope and function of these two Committees are shown below.

### Resource Management Committee

To develop, approve, implement and monitor Council Policy in relation to:

Tasman Resource Management Plan and associated issues  
Coastal Tasman Review  
Future Plan Strategies  
Climate Change – Implications

### Environment and Planning Committee

To develop, approve, implement and monitor Council Policy in relation to:

Environmental Health	HASNO
Building Control	Maritime Safety
Sale of Liquor	Resource Consents
Bylaws and Licenses	Resource Information
Biosecurity	Animal Control

It is felt that now that Council has moved to all Standing Committees comprising all Councillors, that it may be tidier and more efficient to merge these two Committees with the expectation of two meetings of the combined committee in a six week cycle (utilising the existing meeting cycles). This merger would reduce confusion and duplication in deciding which Committee to refer a particular environment matter to.

## **GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY SCHEMES FOR WASTEWATER AND DRINKING WATER**

We have recently communicated to the Minister of Local Government on these matters, seeking some revision of criteria for eligibility for this central government subsidy. Attached is a letter from the Minister dated 31 July 2006 in reply to our queries.

The Ministry of Health is currently firming up criteria for access to their Drinking Water Subsidy Scheme and are likely to favour a subsidy scheme which, while weighted towards high deprivation index councils, will nevertheless have a sliding scale which will improve matters somewhat in Tasman District.

We also now understand that the wastewater subsidy scheme criteria may also be under review.

## **VISIT FROM GROOTEGAST DELEGATION**

I enclose correspondence from Kingborough Council in Tasmania who are interested in inviting a delegation from Grootegast to join their centenary celebrations in January 2008. It may well be that such a delegation could visit Tasman District Council at that time.

## **BUILDING CONSENT PRESSURES**

Tasman District Council along with many other councils in New Zealand is currently unable to meet its statutory processing time requirements for new building consent applications. Management and staff are addressing this problem and have adopted a number of measures to try and reduce the backlog. These steps have included introducing a fastlane for minor building consent works (garages, carports, sheds etc). We intend advertising for an additional staff member to further boost plan processing which appears to be our critical backlog area.

This is a non budgeted appointment and management are currently reassessing building consent charges. While we did increase building consent fees by 40% in March 2006, it may be necessary to increase the fees by a similar amount again if this is to be a fully user pays' service.

In addition, we have written to the Minister of Housing outlining our concerns at the rapidly increasing costs being incurred in the inspections for the new Building Act and required inspection regime. I enclose a copy of our letter to Minister concerned.

R G Dickinson  
Chief Executive

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2006/RCN060824 Report CEOs.doc>