

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors
FROM: Chief Executive
REFERENCE: C780
DATE: 7 December 2006
SUBJECT: CEOs Report for December 2006

This will be my last formal report to Council as CEO. In this situation it is interesting to note where we are as a Council today. Council has in place an audited 10 year LTCCP which provides a clear 10 year plan for the Tasman community. The plan provides for significant infrastructural investment to handle the ongoing population growth pressures. These growth pressures have been steady and persistent throughout my whole 18 years with this Council.

Our Council has a highly experienced staff with a low staff turnover (about half the national average for Local Authorities). In addition, Council staff numbers are approximately 160 full time equivalents, which compares very favourably with the other three unitary Councils in New Zealand. These Councils are of a similar size and perform exactly the same governance function. Most importantly we have a unified staff and Council who are able to develop and implement policies to enable Tasman District to continue to thrive.

Some of the future challenges for Council include:

- (a) Keeping future year's rates and charges increase within affordable limits, given the size of infrastructure investment we need to make.
- (b) Coming to terms effectively with new legislative requirements such as meeting the clean air regulations and drinking water standards.
- (c) How to handle the ongoing amalgamation debate.
- (d) Providing a suitable water supply adequate to cope with 50 year demand projections.

2006 CENSUS STATISTICS

Enclosed are the recently published 2006 Census figures for Tasman District. These figures are shown as "Usually Resident Population Count" and also as "Census Night Population Count". The Usually Resident Population Count excludes tourists and visitors but includes TDC residents who are overseas. The Census Night Population Count effectively counts the number of heads in the District on Census night. These figures confirm the highest growth over the last 10 years has occurred in Richmond East, Richmond West, Brightwater and Mapua.

IWI SUBMISSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING FUTURE RELATIONSHIP FOLLOWING THE 2006/07 ANNUAL PLAN

Following LTCCP submissions and subsequent meeting with combined top of the south Iwi, a request has been made for Council to consider further steps to enhance and develop the relationship between Iwi and Council. The development of this relationship is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002. It has been suggested that Council should seriously consider a Kaumātua, who would provide advice to Council and staff on suitable protocol and relationship matters. The Kaumātua would also support Council when it was conferring with local Iwi. Councillors may well have noted Nelson City recently followed a similar pathway and appointed a local Kaumātua Mr Joe Paul. Council has an Iwi relationship budget which could accommodate such an appointment. Council guidance is sought in this matter.

COMMUNITY BOARD FUNDING

I enclose a legal opinion from Council's solicitor on the subject of Community Board and whether or not Council can levy a targeted rate to cover the administrative cost of running a Community Board. I would suggest at this stage that this legal opinion simply be received and noted.

R G Dickinson
Chief Executive

<http://tdctoday:82/shared documents/meetings/council/full council/reports/2006/rcn061214 report ceos.doc>