

REPORT

TO: Councillors
FROM: Mayor J Hurley
REFERENCE: C780
DATE: 20 March 2007
SUBJECT: Mayor's Report

TRENZ

We have an invitation to attend this function which is the marketplace of Tourism, on Thursday 24 May, in Rotorua.

PCE APPOINTMENT

Dr Jan Wright has been appointed by Government as Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and will take over from Dr Morgan Williams. She has most recently been Chair of Land Transport New Zealand.

FUJIMI, FRIENDLY TOWN

A recent visit from Fujimi saw 15 students and six adults visit us in Richmond. Cr Henry and I hosted the group of adults at the TDC Office.

ZONE 5

President of LGNZ Basil Morrison reported that a recent Poll revealed that the greatest degree of dissatisfaction was about the representation review, + or - 10% rules.

Local Government subscription to member councils have been advised of an increase amounting to 5% to 6%.

It was estimated that to introduce mandatory drinking water nationwide could cost up to \$800 million. Government may yet place this in the too hard basket.

CEO of LGNZ Eugene Bowen covered issues about the rates inquiry.

Attached are my notes used when we put a case together with Marlborough and Nelson City to the Inquiry Panel.

Ministry of Transport CEO Alan Thompson addressed the meeting. He presented a profile of the Ministry of Transport whereas the NZ GDP is close to \$150 billion pa. Total transport expenditure is currently \$16 billion pa. We can argue as to whether that is the correct balance.

In my view, insufficient weight is still being placed on the need to catch up with roading upgrades and a lack of appreciation that once again the cost of compliance and RMA issues is seriously eroding the amount of work that is actually happening.

Hurunui District Council gave a full and interesting brief of the Tourism Venture and development of the Hanmer Pools Resort.

NEW ZEALAND AIRFORCE, MOTUEKA

Once again, a tent camp was set up at Motueka and an exercise based on training away from base in a field was very well managed. The Airforce personnel are a highly professional organisation who have a lot to be proud of when on public display.

EAST TAKAKA FAIR

We competed but came second. As a result, the trophy has returned home to East Takaka for a term.

ANNUAL PLAN CONSULTATION

I look forward to all of those Councillors who can attend to do so, as the round of meetings gives a good opportunity to establish the mood of ratepayers. This is of high importance when we finally decide as to what final level of rate will be decided.

John Hurley
Mayor

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2007/RCN070322 Report Mayor's.doc>