

## **REPORT**

**TO:** Councillors

**FROM:** Mayor R Kempthorne

**SUBJECT:** **Joint Projects with Nelson City Council – RCN10-03-08**

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### **PURPOSE**

Recently I received a letter from the Mayor of Nelson City requesting that we “formalise the working arrangements between the two Councils”. This report, and the letter from Mayor Marshall, seeks the collective view and response from the Tasman District Council.

### **BACKGROUND**

It is recognised that Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council already work effectively together on a wide range of joint projects and Council services. These are outlined on pages 58 to 62 of the Council’s Ten Year Plan 2009/2019 (LTCCP) (attached).

However, from time to time, new issues and projects arise on which either Tasman would like to work with Nelson or Nelson would like to work with Tasman. Over the time I have been either Councillor or Mayor it has been my experience that the two Councils have generally cooperated very well on the issues of substance. Saxton Field is an excellent example of this.

Clearly however there is some feeling around the Nelson City Council table that our working together could be improved.

### **DISCUSSION**

It is my view that the greatest value for the Tasman and Nelson communities is the two Councils effectively working together. This maximises the efficient business operations of the two Councils for the highest benefit of our communities.

Mayor Marshall’s letter states that formalisation of the working together arrangement could establish general guiding principles for the two Councils to work together and could agree and document the formal processes. This could contain substantive agreements covering such matters as our agreed approach to funding, governance and management practices. The letter also requests that we establish a binding mediation/resolution process where we are unable to agree on an issue.

I note that we already have a process to manage regional facilities and establish how they are funded and it is a simple matter of our respective Councils raising an issue through this regional facility funding process. However, there are likely to be other projects and Council services that sit outside of the regional facilities process, for example, the establishment of a Joint Holding Company and waste management.

I believe that Mayor Marshall's letter is timely, as it attempts to quantify and deal with an issue that is real for the Nelson City Council.

## **OPTIONS**

There are a number of options to go forward.

1. *Agree to establish a formal process to deal with all joint Council services and projects with a binding resolution clause.*

Establishing a formal process would give clarity on how the Councils work together in all instances. The disadvantage of this is that Councils don't always want to work together in the same way on all issues, projects and Council service and this may unduly limit the processes we would like to establish. The disadvantage of a binding resolution clause is that, in my view, it is the Council's role to make decisions, not a third party. If there were to be a third party clause, Council would be abdicating its responsibilities.

2. Agree to establish a formal process to deal with all joint Council services and projects without a binding resolution clause.
3. Continue working together on joint Council services and projects on an issue-by-issue basis. Historically, this is how we have worked together. In my opinion, if we do this methodically, and in good faith, this should answer any issues raised.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Tasman District Council supports option 3, continuing to work together on joint Council services and projects on an issue-by-issue basis.**

**THAT Council establishes a way that Council can achieve this, so that both Councils have confidence in a process that identifies potential issues and raises them for collective consideration.**