

Report No:	RCN12-05-08
File No:	
Date:	24 April 2012
<b>Information Only – no decision required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Full Council  
**Meeting Date:** 3 May 2012  
**Report Author:** R Kempthorne  
**Subject:** **Mayor's Report for March/April 2012**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The attached report is a commentary of the Mayor's activities for the months of March/April 2012 for Councillors information.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Tasman District Council receives the Mayor's Report for March/April 2012 RCN12-05-08; and**  
**THAT Tasman District Council request that Cr Maling attends the Local Government New Zealand Conference and Annual General Meeting due to be held in July 2012 as Tasman District Council's representative**

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## **1. ACTIVITIES**

### **16 & 21 March**

Public consultation on Lee Valley Dam proposal

### **21 March**

Public meeting with residents affected by the December 2011 flood event

### **23/25 March**

Jane and I attended (and judged) at the Trustpower Community Awards in Ashburton

### **4 April**

Attended, and participated in panel discussion, at Irrigation New Zealand conference in Timaru

### **11 April**

Land and Water Forum Plenary meeting in Wellington

### **20 April**

Met, with Acting CEO Dennis Bush-King, the new CEO for LGNZ Mr Malcolm Alexander.

## **2. DURING THE MONTH**

- 2.1 I have received a query on behalf of a property owner at Headingly Lane. As Council will be aware, there are properties in the Lower Queen Street/Headingly Lane area that have been rezoned to 'mixed business' and still have residential dwellings on them. This has resulted in an increase in property value, but also a corresponding increase in rates, commencing 1 July. On request, I have organised a meeting for any interested and effected property owners to discuss their concerns in mid-May, however I have also

confirmed that there is no rates relief mechanism available to these ratepayers.

- 2.2 I have rescheduled a deferred meeting with property owners regarding the noise issues at Motupipi, resulting from the motocross track on the Harwoods property, to address as constructively as possible the concerns expressed to the Council over a sustained period of time. The Ombudsman, who has issued a final report on this issue, has not sustained the complaints against the Council, but has recommended that Council review the current Code of Practice; investigate ways to improve its ability to monitor noise levels in remote locations.
- 2.3 On April 12, the Shared Services Core Group, a sub-group of the South Island Strategic Alliance, meet to further consider the steps that South Island councils can jointly undertake to increase alignment, and share services and procurement for increased efficiencies and cost savings, where possible. This group will be reporting back to the combined meeting of the LGNZ Zones 5 & 6 in late June.
- 2.4 During March we once again hosted a school group from Fujimi Machi, Richmond's Friendly Town. I was pleased to be involved in a powhiri for the group, and I appreciate Deputy Mayor Tim King and Gail who also joined them.
- 2.5 Public consultation on the Long Term Plan took place in various locations throughout the region. Council will be aware that we have received around 900 submissions, and, with the high number of submitters wishing to speak to their submissions, we have a very full schedule of meetings over the next two weeks.

### **3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE**

- 3.1 This annual conference will be taking place in July in Queenstown. The conference is attended by the Mayor, CEO and their wives, the Deputy Mayor, and one nominated Councillor. Cr Kit Maling and Cr Martine Bouillir have expressed an interest in attending. If there are no other expressions of interest, I would like to nominate Cr Maling to attend, as per the draft resolution below.

### **4. ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

- 4.1 You will be aware that Lindsay McKenzie commences on 14 May as the Council's new Chief Executive. I would like to remind Councillors that a powhiri is being held for Lindsay on 12 May at Te Awhina marae.

- 4.2 I would like to express sincere thanks to Dennis Bush-King for his role as Acting Chief Executive over the last 6-or-so months. Together with other members of the management team, and staff, Dennis has kept the ship 'on course' during a challenging time for the Council, including a Civil Defence Emergency, and the related workload that follows; the production of the Long Term Plan; and the process of the reorganisation proposal for the Nelson and Tasman Councils. Thank you Dennis for all your hard work.

## **5. AMALGAMATION PETITION**

- 5.1 The poll on the proposed union between Tasman and Nelson Councils was a clear result that Tasman residents and ratepayers did not support the proposal and even when viewed across both districts, there was a clear majority against the union from those who voted. The breakdown of voting by ward has shown that every ward has a clear majority, of those who voted, against this amalgamation proposal.
- 5.2 The 64% voter return in Tasman is a high return and this, together with a high level of submissions on the Long Term Plan, is heartening to me – it demonstrates good community engagement with the issues that affect the region.
- 5.3 It may be that not everyone who voted 'no' is happy with the status quo or with Council for that matter, and those who voted 'yes' have expectations that things can be done better. It is up to Council to show leadership as we move forward and I am sure Council will agree that we should always be open to doing our business better and more efficiently.
- 5.4 In summary our focus should be on:
- Recognising the public desire for an independent Tasman.
  - Continuing to serve the residents and ratepayers of Tasman District.
  - Enhancing internal relationships – Councillors, Community Boards, Management and staff.
  - Identifying opportunities to address some of the "regional" issues raised by the Local Government Commission and submitters during the process.
  - Enhancing the relationship with Nelson City Council – Mayor to Mayor; Council to Council, the executive & other staff.
  - Acknowledging we already have lots of shared services with Nelson City Council and others and the need to identify opportunities for further shared services with other councils, including Nelson City Council, the South Island Strategic Alliance work and following up on recommendations in the Top of the South Shared Services report.

- 5.5 I welcome Councillor and public feedback on how we can take up the opportunities to collaborate where that is efficient and effective for the ratepayers in both council areas.
- 5.6 I appreciate and thank our staff who have at times encountered trying circumstances as a result of the uncertainty while amalgamation was under consideration. With the decisive result we can now turn the page, accepting the democratic outcome and put divisiveness behind us and work constructively forward together. The Tasman District Council includes Mayor and Councillors, Community Boards and residents associations, Council management and staff working together for our community.

## **6. IPADS**

- 6.1 I have asked our Officers to explore the use of iPads, replacing paper copies of agendas and all written material we receive. This technology is increasingly being used by other councils and MPs. We will receive a report covering this proposal in the 15 May Corporate Services Committee meeting.

## **7. COUNCILLOR ONLY TIME**

- 7.1 I propose that from now on, I will instigate a Councillor-only time, at the conclusion of each Council meeting. The purpose is to give an opportunity for Mayor and Councillors to make any observations and enable us to maintain mutual respect, constructive relationships, to have open and honest communication and to jointly focus on issues. I thank Councillors for the gracious response to the result of the amalgamation poll and showing commitment to an excellent performing team for our community.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That this report be received.

## **7. DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**THAT the Tasman District Council receives the Mayor's Report for March/April 2012 RCN12-05-08; and**

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