



ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Higgins, Environment & Planning Committee Chair

REFERENCE: S611

SUBJECT: **CHAIR'S REPORT - REPORT REP10-07-11-** Report prepared for meeting of 1 July 2010

Presentation of the proposed zoning policy for Mapua has been well received. The Mapua Community Association meeting, chaired by Devon Gallagher worked through the issues well and was attended by the three ward Councillors and myself as E&P Committee Chair. The open day session was also useful. There are no apparent issues at this point, however community groups are asking for time to work through the draft. Council publicity staff should note that E&P Policy information needs as much time as can possibly be given for effected parties to work through and ponder on. The Coastal hazard issue is well understood although it is a threat to affected property owners.

At the evening meeting, I advised that Council hoped to notify a Plan Change for the Mapua area before the election rather than work through the issues again with a new Council. Somehow, we need to receive feed back from the Community and work to that time frame. Policy Manager, Steve Markham, will advise the Committee of the workload plan through to the election, and we will need to make a decision on it.

I attended a seminar at the Cawthron Institute on changing Energy scenarios, and discussion on meeting the needs for the Nelson Region. Discussion centered on the development of a "Smart Electricity Grid" that enables more efficient time of use management, and input for local generation during peak loads. This is likely to evolve, and it is a good thing that the Tasman Electric Network is owned by the users and the incentive exists for them to make the needed investments. With regard to liquid fuels, a proposition was made to move towards local supply to supplement petroleum fuels. It appears to me that the next common liquid fuel will be Liquid Natural Gas (LNG). This has been used in NZ before, along with LPG. Availability of this product is vast, and it is suitable for heavy vehicle use as well as private motor vehicles. The threat of a catastrophic shortage of fuel is more alarmist than real, in my opinion.

I wish to record appreciation to Mayor Kempthorne and Manager Dennis Bush-King for taking time to work through the water allocation issues in Motueka with the Motueka Community Board. It is disappointing that the Board is of a mind to disregard professional advice and is determined to play politics on this matter at the ratepayers expense.

There are some interesting reports today. I encourage the Committee to improve our understanding of soil quality in the District. Going forward, the soil holds a key to meeting everyday needs for food and energy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Higgins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Higgins
Chair, Environment & Planning Committee