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| Report No: | REP11-11-11 |
| File No: | S611 |
| Date: | 4 November 2011 |
| <i>Information Only – no decision required</i> | |

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee
Meeting Date: 23 November 2011
Report Author: Stuart Bryant, Chair, Environment & Planning Committee
Subject: Environment & Planning Committee Chair's Report

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Environment & Planning Committee Chair's Report REP11-11-11.

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RED ZONE VISIT

The Christchurch Red Zone visit on 19 October was a valuable experience to see if there are any lessons learned that would be of benefit to this region and if so, these lessons will be reported back to both councils and likely used in the jointly funded Emergency Management Group. I looked at damaged buildings in the Red Zone, Liquefaction around the Avon River and slips and rockfalls in Sumner.

One of the biggest observations, apart from the extent of the damage, was the range. It wasn't just buildings, but also bridges, roads and other structures. I found it was daunting when you see the amount of damage that can be done.

- **Rural Subdivision and Land Use Policy Review**

Work is to start on the long-delayed review of the rural policies and controls on subdivision and built development, including dwellings and rural business activities. This review aims to improve the approach in the Tasman Resource Management Plan to retaining land-based productive opportunities in the District, while enabling appropriate use of rural land for rural living and business activities. The Plan's approach was developed in the 1990s and the pattern of use and effects needs review, along with accounting for community views. Six years ago the Council consulted widely on rural development issues and much feedback was received; since then Council has had urban planning priorities that have prevented acting on this feedback to review the Plan. The pattern of rural zones and rules for subdivision and buildings will be re-examined, and it is hoped that a process of discussion with rural communities on the issues and options can be recommenced in 2012.

This decision to review the Plan was made before the matter of restrictions on multiple rural dwellings arose recently in the Motueka valley, where compliance issues are under investigation, and a public meeting was held on the issues.

- **Development Planning for Wakefield and Brightwater**

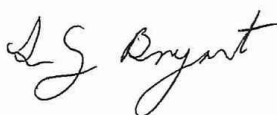
The Council is expecting to be able to start the process of reviewing town development opportunities and needs for both Wakefield and Brightwater in 2012 both of these towns have further development opportunities but with some constraints. These town planning reviews have been in a queue to start for some time, while work has continued for Richmond, Mapua, Motueka and Takaka.

RIVERS ROAD SHOW

An invitation to an event in November about the “state of our rivers and groundwater and what we are, and could be, doing about it” has been sent out to all interested parties.

Over the last year Tasman District Council, in cooperation with Cawthron, Fish and Wildlife Services and others has produced comprehensive reports on river water quality, freshwater fish communities, and groundwater quality and would like to take this opportunity to show what monitoring we do (funded by ratepayers) and what we have found. New rules relating to activities that affect rivers will be summarised, particularly Part IV of the Tasman Resource Management Plan relating to works and structures in waterways. Councils around the country are certainly being pushed harder to improve water quality but this does not necessarily mean tougher rules. Given the success of non-regulatory, collaborative approaches used in the Aorere and Sherry catchments to solve water quality problems, we hope that these workshops will excite new communities of interest to work along these lines, and to develop all sorts of positive spin-offs of working together better.

Mayor Richard Kempthorne will kick off the event in Murchison on 14 November. Richard and Glen Lauder (the facilitator of the discussion part of the workshop) bring a wealth of experience to this issue of managing freshwater resources, both being involved in the Land and Water Forum (a collaborative approach between all the major stakeholders at a national level to come up with solutions to our declining water quality). Trevor James, Resource Scientist from Tasman District Council will speak about the recent information from over a decade of monitoring river water quality. Scientists from Cawthron who have also been involved in the analysis and reporting on the health of Tasman’s rivers will be there to add further credibility to the information. Farming leaders from catchments with very successful programmes to improve water quality and aquatic ecology will inspire us with their achievements.



Stuart Bryant
Chair, Environment & Planning Committee