

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors
FROM: Chief Executive
REFERENCE: C780
DATE: 17 January 2006
SUBJECT: CEOs Report for December 2005/January 2006

STAFFING

The main challenge over the last month has been relocation of a number of Richmond Office staff to populate the new central building and to free up the last relocatable house (which will now be sold). This has continued to raise a number of challenges and staff tolerance and patience has been much appreciated.

Staff are most appreciative of the new modern offices which should be a major accommodation asset for many years to come.

CHRISTMAS BREAK CHALLENGES

Staff report a relatively uneventful Christmas break, with two exceptions:

Firstly, a sewer break at Tapu Bay caused concern. This was not a break in the new pipeline, but more a fault in one of the older pumping stations. Our consultants are preparing a full report for the Engineering Services Committee meeting, to be held on 2 February 2006, addressing what went wrong and what needs to be done to make this whole system more robust.

The other major concern during the period was the ongoing drought and the need for the Dry Weather Taskforce to re-impose Stage 2 water rationing of the Waimea Basin. The Taskforce is reviewing the matter weekly and a number of emergency steps have been taken to protect drinking water supplies. These include the plumbing in of two additional wells in Lower Queen Street and the emergency works provision of a weir at Wakefield.

MEETING VENUES

With the major alterations going on around the Council Chambers, we have asked Department Manager's Secretaries to try, wherever possible, to find alternative venues for the next three or four months.

This presents a good opportunity for Council and its Standing Committees to hold their meetings in other parts of Tasman District, which is always much appreciated by locals and presents a good opportunity for Councillors to view particular issues throughout the District.

URBAN DRAINAGE AREAS

We have recently received further complaints regarding stormwater problems at Patons Rock. This is a classic problem where there is indeed a stormwater flooding problem from time to time, but there is no authorised urban drainage area and hence no significant rating base to fund capital improvement projects.

A similar situation pertains in Pohara, Ligar Bay, Tata Beach and Tasman. The Engineering Committee, at its February meeting, will be considering this matter further as to whether we should increase the number of urban drainage areas or take some alternative policy direction. Councillors will appreciate that the legal creation of urban drainage areas requires a special consultative procedure which is quite a time consuming task.

REGIONAL GROWTH PRESSURES

Following on from a recommendation of the Local Government Forum we have recently received a Consultant's Report on Richmond Growth Pressures and Strategic Planning. I enclose a two page extract from this report covering Tasman District. Anyone wishing to see the full 90 page report should contact me.

R G Dickinson
Chief Executive