

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors
FROM: Chief Executive
REFERENCE: C780
DATE: 13 April 2006
SUBJECT: CEOs Report for March 2006/April 2006

STAFFING

The big priority over the last two months has been to complete the draft LTCCP and to obtain an Audit clearance for the document.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Richmond Office refurbishment project is now in the last stages of construction. We expect completion by late May. Council may wish to give some advice regarding an appropriate opening function.

MANAGEMENT OF WATER

Enclosed is information from the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Minister for the Environment regarding the new government strategy to protect and improve New Zealand's freshwater resources. Council will need to take a keen interest in the development of proposed national policy statements and national environment statements.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW REFORM BILL

This Bill was introduced to Parliament on 29 March 2006 and involves amendments to a variety of Acts with relevance to local government. I enclose a copy of an information sheet prepared by Simpson Grierson which outlines the legislative changes proposed in the Bill. As you will see, in most cases these represent useful points of clarification and the Bill will tidy up a number of anomalies and loose ends. However, there are no real radical changes in philosophy.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY/GREENHOUSE GASES

Government has recently axed its national efficiency and conservation strategy. This Strategy introduced in 2001 with a \$79 million five year budget was supposed to improve energy efficiency by 10% in the five years to 2006.

To date, energy efficiency savings achieved amount to 2% (see attached Press article). Given the recent decision to withdraw the carbon tax proposal, government strategy in these areas is now in a vacuum.

These setbacks underline the need for a more legislative/regulatory approach to energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions.

Staff are currently investigating, at a local government regional level, what steps Council could consider that would make a contribution to energy efficiency/greenhouse gas emissions. We would hope to have a report to Council during May with options for Council to consider.

GOLDEN BAY WHARVES

I will provide a verbal update on this matter.

R.E.D.S.

The Nelson Regional Economic Development Strategy is due for review after four years. This review has a budget of \$150K of which the Region needs to contribute 30%.

Nelson City has agreed to fund \$10K and we have been asked to fund a similar amount. This amount could be accommodated within our existing \$40K Economic Development budget

There are definite long term advantages in being an active participant in this review and I will recommend we give this funding assurance to the EDA.

R G Dickinson
Chief Executive

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2006/RCN060420 Report CEOs.doc>