

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors

FROM: Mayor J Hurley

REFERENCE: C780

DATE: 31 May 2006

SUBJECT: Mayor's Report

My thanks to all Councillors and members of staff who have attended the round of LTCCP Annual Plan meetings around the District. Among other things that have to be done these meetings create a very busy time but are appreciated by the public.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Zone 5 and 6 combined meeting Dunedin – dog micro-chipping. Councils in the South Island, particularly rural Councils, oppose the micro-chipping law. Unfortunately that was not relayed on to Local Government by executive representatives who were severely censured. A decision to send a delegation to a select committee with a proposal was then adopted. Presentation from Transit focused on the level of interest being taken by them of Council subdivision and development around the nation. A review of the Local Government Act 2002 is to happen in 2007 and September is being suggested for participation in this review by Councils with meetings being organised at present – 14 September in Wellington and 21 September in Christchurch.

A presentation from the Road Transport Forum Manager Tony Friedlander covered many issues including research indicates an 85% increase in heavy traffic by 2020 if growth remains the same as recent past and commented that Transit New Zealand's current construction programme will not meet New Zealand's future needs. Nelson City proposed a change to daylight saving time for which there was no support. Bruce Robertson, Assistant Auditor General, spoke with the audit of LTCCPs. Bruce praised Southlands and Tasman District plans for being honest and upfront and keen to get the right message to the community. He also noted that Councils core knowledge of assets was in catch up mode. I attended RAC Forum on 8 May.

TRENTZ 2006 - CHRISTCHURCH

A Councillor or senior staff member to attend Christchurch at the invitation of Air New Zealand and Latitude on 15 June which is a meeting day for Councillors.

SPORTS PARK MOTUEKA

Kathryn and I attended and officially opened the new grandstand and changing facilities now in Motueka. We enjoyed, together with approximately 1000 others, a great afternoon. Another project completed - everyone involved can be very proud of it. My concern is to now ensure that engineering progresses the joining up of Manoy and Talbot Street completing the sports park development.

CADET FUNCTION

Kathryn and I have attended the cadet dinner and the Pacific Island evening in Nelson.

I wish to confirm the establishment of a working party to fully investigate the Richmond Library development proposals. Membership I suggest it could be the CEO, Community Services Manager, Mayor and Richmond Councillors.

VISIT OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE – HONORARY JIM ANDERTON

I believe he was impressed with the presentation about water issues by Joseph Thomas and his visit to John and Margaret Ewers' property at Appleby. We recognise the benefits of such a well organised and highly productive business and its importance to the district and showcase their example as best practice.

Finally, I need to remind all of the very busy time ahead to now complete the budgets for the 06/07 financial year.

John Hurley
Mayor