

Report No:	RCN12-01-13
File No:	
Date:	17 January 2012
<i>Decision required and information items</i>	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Full Council
Meeting Date: 26 January 2012
Report Author: Dennis Bush-King, Acting Chief Executive
Subject: **Acting Chief Executive's Report**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on various matters regarding the Productivity Commission, the Santa Monica, the Mapua Clean-Up, the Golden Bay Rototai Health Centre Charitable Trust, Jackett's island, and the amalgamation petition.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Tasman District Council receives the Acting Chief Executive's Report RCN12-01-13.

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1. PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

1.1 The New Zealand Productivity Commission has released its first two reports since its inception in mid-2011 and both cast careful scrutiny on the activities of local authorities. The first looks at housing affordability and local authorities are criticised for the way in planning rules influence the release of land and because of compliance costs associated with the building and resource consent processes and development contributions. The report seems to ignore the cost implications on local authorities, particular infrastructure costs.

1.2 The second report looks at improving New Zealand's international freight services and identifies "improvements" to the governance framework for council-controlled ports and airports could be made by:

- Clarifying the purpose of those companies by bringing it into line with the statutory objective for state-owned enterprises
- Precluding councillors and council staff from being directors of port and airport companies; and
- Establishing a monitoring function to create independent comparative performance information for port owners to consider. This information should further strengthen ownership disciplines and port performance.

The report suggests improvements by "private capital participation" which the media interprets as local authorities selling down their shareholdings.

1.3 The report has also highlighted a suggested change to Section 5 of the resource Management Act to give greater emphasis to the "net social costs and benefits" when making decisions about the use of resources.

1.4 LGNZ will be preparing submissions on both reports.

2. SANTA MONICA UPDATE

- 2.1 The Santa Monica is an old fishing vessel that was brought to Port Tarakohe by Bloomfield Marine Ltd last August after being tied up in Wellington Harbour for the previous five years. There was concern about the risk of importing marine biosecurity pests into Golden Bay that could adversely affect aquaculture or indigenous biodiversity. Arrangements to have the vessel inspected at the owner's cost soon after its arrival were unsuccessful, but it is pleasing to report that an inspection was completed in December and no unwanted marine organisms were found. It is proposed to work with other Top of the South councils to encourage high-risk vessels to be inspected and, if necessary, cleaned, prior to berthing at local ports.

3. MAPUA CLEAN-UP

- 3.1 The Ministry for the Environment has released a book telling the story of the clean-up of the former Fruitgrowers Chemical Company site in Mapua. It follows a commitment from a previous Secretary for the Environment Barry Carbon to record the history of the site and its rehabilitation. The concluding paragraph is testimony to the effort of all involved:

Many lessons were learnt from the clean-up of the FCC site at Mapua but it is fitting to end with the most positive one; impossible things can be achieved when a passionate community works alongside a dedicated council

- 3.2 The 2011 annual spring monitoring round of sediment and biota beside the FCC site continues show a steady improvement. The western stormwater ditch, the estuarine mud, the snails and cockles are all improving, following a trend over time. The Site Auditor has reviewed the previous two monitoring reports and recommended a reduced sampling round. The Groundwater sampling has also been reduced by the Site Auditor after quarterly monitoring since completion of the work showing a trend of improvement in groundwater quality - lower concentrations of nutrients and pesticides. The Monitoring Reports are viewable on Council's website.

4. GOLDEN BAY ROTOTAI HEALTH CENTRE CHARITABLE TRUST

- 4.1 Council has received an invitation to appoint a council representative to the Golden Bay Rototai Health Centre Charitable Trust which was established in November 2011. The purpose of the Trust is to "provide, acquire, and own such property and equipment" required to provide primary health care facilities

in Golden Bay including residential care and A&E services. A similar invitation has been extend to the Nelson Marlborough DHB.

- 4.2 Council direction is sought on what response should be made and if it is decided to appoint a representative who should that be.

5. JACKETT'S ISLAND

- 5.1 Councillors will be aware of the decision of the Environment Court in relation to a costs award against Council. The claim was in two parts, the Court having only dealt with the first, legal and expert witness costs. The first claim was for \$244, 124.24. The Court has awarded \$189,000. The second claim for a further \$335,000 is to be the subject of discussion between the parties. Staff are continuing to prepare a long term plan under the Courts direction.

6. AMALGAMATION PETITION

- 6.1 The Local Government Commission is expected to release its decision on the proposal for the union of Nelson City and Tasman District on 31 January 2012. A separate report is in this agenda concerning the appointment of a returning officer if the decision is to proceed. There will be other matters which will need to be addressed and these will be brought to the next council meeting on 15 February 2012.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the report be received.

8. DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Tasman District Council receives the Acting Chief Executive's Report RCN12-01-13.

Dennis Bush-King
Acting Chief Executive