



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Richard Kempthorne, Chairperson

REFERENCE: S611

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – EP07/05/11** - Report prepared for 9 May Meeting

One of the agenda items for today's meeting regards climate change.

There has been much debate regarding the reality of climate change, a real example of this being the public spat between NIWA and the NZ Met Office recently. There is however a growing realisation that we have some very significant climate changes occurring with some potentially very significant negative effects.

The challenge for Council and in my view the rest of our community, is to identify and apply the appropriate actions that we can take that are achievable.

I have watched with interest and concern at some of the actions taken by a local corporate body regarding the transfer of a relatively small amount of water from the Motueka Central Plains Zone to supply Mapua and Rural 3 subdivisions. This same organisation has had its own application for a water take rejected and this matter has been heard by an independent Commissioner who indicated that the applicant's case was very poorly prepared.

The same organisation is also intending to seek a judicial review of Council's decision to accept a similar resource consent application by the Engineering Department. This application will be dealt with using an external commissioner or panel. This litigation, and also another case involving an enforcement order against Council concerning what information has been and has not been released, will impose significant costs on Council.

The most disappointing aspect for me is that I, other Councillors and staff have invested a lot of time consulting with sections of the community who do not seem to have valued this consultation much at all. It is however their right to resist Council initiatives, but I feel a frustrating waste of resources.

Despite the commentary in the Nelson Mail, I was pleased with the Motueka community response to information regarding the Engineering Department's application to increase the take of water from the Motueka Central Plains Zone for a community water supply. This application has yet to be heard by an external commissioner or panel of commissioners, however I felt the information was well presented by staff and Councillors and well received by the majority of those attending the two meetings I attended. I would support further opportunities for discussion within the community.

I am pleased to see that we are looking to progress the investigation of significant natural areas in Golden Bay. This work was started five years ago from Motueka through to the Waimea Plains with assistance from Councillor King and myself. The information gathered was well received by landowners concerned, and I look forward to landowners in Golden Bay receiving the associated benefit.

Richard Kempthorne
Chair, Environment & Planning Committee