



## REPORT

**TO:** Environment and Planning Committee

**FROM:** Michael Higgins, Chair, Environmental and Planning Committee.

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - REPORT 08/01/08**

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I'd firstly like to welcome members to first meeting of the New Year. As always, this committee has interesting matters to address.

### **1. Presentation By Paton's Rock Group In Public Forum**

TRMP Plan change hearings and further development of the TRMP will occur through the year. As a part of this process, Council has, in recent meetings, agreed to continue with planning provisions for Western Golden Bay.

The future of the Paton's Rock settlement has been included in those discussions.

The Paton's Rock Society has been active in promoting what they consider to be the best long term solution for this area. They are concerned that the extension of time is running against them and have pleaded for the opportunity to address Council on this matter.

I have agreed to make an exception and allow them 20 minutes in the Public Forum at this meeting to do so and also to allow some questions if necessary.

I will expect the group to present their arguments clearly and succinctly.

### **2. Treaty Of Waitangi Claim Regarding Water Management.**

I understand that advice will be presented today regarding the Treaty of Waitangi claim for water management. As a Councillor, I am very concerned that this claim has been made.

My concern is two-fold:

1. The Tasman District Council has always heard the submissions of local iwi and acted considerately and fairly to their requests. It seems to me that this claim to the Waitangi Tribunal fails to acknowledge this fact.
2. The thrust of this claim is to establish separate Governance. I believe that if we cannot work together as a single community, we will find it difficult to make any progress at all.

### **3. Awareness of Environmental Issues**

Over the Christmas break I read the book "Carbon Neutral by 2020". Becoming carbon neutral is likely to improve long-term sustainability of resources and is closely related to reduction in green-house gas emissions.

The world's population is currently 6.5 billion people and expected to increase to 9.0 billion in about 45 years. The implication of that growth and the associated demand on resources is a challenge which we must be mindful of as a Council. I hope that through this term we can gain a better understanding of the issues and that this will have a positive influence on our decision-making.