



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

**TO:** Environment & Planning Committee

**FROM:** Michael Higgins, Chairperson

**REFERENCE:** S611

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – EP08/03/08** - Report prepared for 4 March Meeting

---

It was a pleasure to begin this year by attending the opening of the Settlers Memorial in the cove on Wakefield Key. The ships that arrived from England and later Germany, brought European people to this new land and with them a democratic way of living. My own forbears left England in hardship, and came seeking a better life and opportunity. For all of us, the hard work and dedicated commitment to this land has yielded a life that we are fortunate to enjoy. This heritage that runs through Nelson City and the Tasman District is wonderful to me and precious to preserve. For the settlers at that time, memories of a massive world changing battle were fresh in their minds. The Battle of Trafalgar and Lord Nelson's victory there will forever impact on this part of the world. The naming of streets, towns such as Collingwood, and the maritime culture should always remain.

The Nelson City flag flew proudly at this celebration. It is my understanding that the flag has been developed for Nelson City and District. It may well be appropriate on occasions, for this flag to fly here in Richmond and indeed in the wider District. In the past decade or so the Tasman District has established its identity separately from Nelson City, which has been a necessary step, but there is a heritage between us that needs to be treasured and not lost. It is the heritage of the settlers, their culture, work ethic and sense of a fair deal in a community that works together, and I am interested in Councillors' opinion about seeking agreement from Nelson City to fly this flag on suitable occasions.

While on the subject of Heritage, the Environment & Planning committee acts for the Council on the matter, in the place of the former Heritage subcommittee. Cr Wilkens is appointed to oversee this issue. It is fair to say, that all members of the Council have a healthy interest in the subject of heritage and perhaps it would be appropriate for staff to report to this committee on a more regular basis, dealing with this subject.

Since our last E&P meeting, a plan change No. 15 and part of No. 53 has been heard and adjourned. With regard to water allocation issues in the Waimea basin, it is notable that all parties have agreed to an interim solution pending decisions on water augmentation which should occur over the next decade. The hearing was adjourned to allow time for representatives from Maori submitters to meet with Mayor Kempthorne and CEO Wylie, to discuss broader issues on water management so that our decisions when the hearing is resumed, can be advised more fully.

In my role as E&P Chair, I attended a meeting in Motueka which questioned the Council decision to grant resource consent for a McDonalds food and cafe establishment in High Street, Motueka. The process of granting this decision was challenged and has withstood the test of scrutiny. There is a group of residents who have concerns regarding the nature of food we eat, the right of a company to purchase food commodities from lands that were formerly tropical rain forests, the effects of litter, and of traffic accumulation over time. It is likely that we will hear more on these subjects.

Councillors are in the process of obtaining or renewing Certification for the hearing of Resource Consent applications. It requires commitment and a good understanding of process to achieve this certification and I wish Councillors, Mayor Kempthorne and Consents Manager Rob Lieffering all the best, as we go through it,

I have worked with staff on a submission to NCC regarding the application for Resource Consent by Wahanga Ltd for a subdivision east of Champion Road and Hill Street. The submission has been lodged by the due date. Approval and further comment is sought from the committee today.

The Committee is scheduled to hear submissions on Resource Management Plan Variations 55 to 60 over three days beginning Thursday, 13 March. There is an interesting range of issues and I encourage Councillors to make themselves available for this hearing.

Michael Higgins  
**Chair, Environment & Planning Committee**