



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

**TO:** Environment & Planning Committee

**FROM:** Michael Higgins, Chairperson

**REFERENCE:** S611

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – EP08/05/06** - Report prepared for 29 May Meeting

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The past six weeks have pushed on rather quickly and that is likely to continue for a while yet. The TDC Annual Plan presentation meetings do not appear to have raised significant variances from an Environment and Planning viewpoint, so far.

I have met with the CEO of The Nelson Provincial Museum, Bob Dickinson to seek reassurance that the Museum is going forward on a sustainable basis. It is fair to say that in his time there, changes have been made enabling the museum to live within its cashflow. The Da Vinci exhibition has been a boost to the Museum both financially, and in raising community awareness. The present exhibition, "Unpicking the Past", shows garments and stitching worn during the early European settlement of the District. It is an interesting twenty minute visit.

Our Committee meeting today will tackle some difficult issues, the first being to review the Resource Policy Programme. This will require prioritising projects, taking into account the wish to make a greater part of the proposed TRMP operative. As a committee we will need to choose on some issues.

The second difficult issue is the request from the Motueka Hospital trust, to review their Development Contribution Levies. Cr Norriss and I as Chairs of the effected committees normally hear consider these requests, but in this instance chose to ask the full committee to hear and consider the request.

Later in the day, a video presentation from Simon Upton on climate change issues will be made. It covers the presentation made in Nelson later last year, which was well received. Few of this Council were able to attend, so this opportunity is welcomed.

As Chair of this committee, I wish to note the ongoing significant increase in fuel prices and am of the opinion that our community will be finding the cost increases difficult to manage. It is my understanding that traffic counts are measurably reducing, and indebtedness is increasing. From my own perspective as a forester, the increased cost of fuel is damaging and leading to a reduction in activity. Looking forward, if the NZ Dollar drops below 60cents to the US Dollar, and the price per Barrel of oil holds up, the price of fuel is likely to exceed \$3.00 per litre. Six months ago, this was a distant possibility but now appears to be a likely outcome in the foreseeable future. We will be adopting budgets and workloads over the next four weeks and I believe we need to discuss amongst ourselves the implications of these circumstances.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michael Higgins', with a horizontal line underneath.

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