



## CHAIR'S REPORT

**TO:** Environment & Planning Committee

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

**REFERENCE:** S611

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIR'S REPORT – REPORT EP08/12/11** - Report prepared for meeting of 16 December 2008

---

It is pleasing to see from today's agenda that Environment & Planning work is continuing to go forward, while the TDC as a whole is so focused on the budget process. Hopefully the New Year will enable the Committee to spend more time on the planning issues such as Richmond West.

I note that our agenda includes a draft policy on "Rivers and Lakes". This has been a long time in the drafting, and was a section often talked about in the early days of the TRMP. Some of the issues such as minimum river flows have been addressed in other ways, but the report will be interesting and I hope, not too difficult.

As Chair of E & P, I attended the inaugural meeting of the "Nelson Tasman Sustainability Forum". The meeting was called by Nelson City Council in response to submissions on sustainability within the city. The forum is made up of a wide group including Chamber of Commerce, EDA, Nelson Health Board, Tourism, and environmental activist groups. I have taken the position that the TDC needs to be aware of trends in this subject, that we will not be a driver within it and if matters arise that require our attention, they will be brought to the Council. The basic funding for this forum is from Central Government, and the new administration may have a different view on expenditure. Proposals include an Energy Workshop for business, a Carbon Reduction Rewards scheme, a National Eco Tourism conference to coincide with eco-fest. A sustainable business advisor, if funding is approved. Linkage with "Transition Towns" groups and the list goes on. If a member of Council would like to be involved, the opportunity is there.

The year's end is upon us, I want to thank our manager Dennis Bush-King for his excellent leadership of the E&P Department through the year, and to our staff for the professional approach to their work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Higgins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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