



ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Higgins, Environment & Planning Committee Chair

REFERENCE: S611

SUBJECT: **CHAIR'S REPORT - REPORT REP10-08-10-** Report prepared for meeting of 12 August 2010

The past six weeks has seen a continuation of environmental compliance issues arising for Councillors attention. I want to specifically mention the satisfactory upgrade of the Douglas dairy farm in Puramahoi. Its location, with many streams has resulted in a big task to bring the discharges up to standard, and it became difficult. I want to commend Golden Bay Federated Farmers Group, and its president Graham Ball for rallying around with voluntary labour to help finish the bridge. Teams of workers, including Cr Borlase worked in all weathers to achieve it. It solved a problem and it is good for the industry in Golden Bay. Council staff recognised the effort, and the achievement, and signed off the compliance without further action being taken. This outcome is good for the Tasman District Council as well because it means the end result is achieved without a punitive measure.

A further issue is a stock truck wash in Hope that has met the need for many years. Increasing use demand has resulted in an unsustainable activity and steps have been taken to remedy this. My thanks to Cr Bryant for picking the issue up with the trucking operators, NZTA and Engineering staff. The dumping of stock truck effluent is a problem for the three councils in the Top of the South. Trucks are maximising the use of dumps in Murchison and Wellington, taking steps to minimise the use of the Hope site. The objective going forward is to establish an easily accessible site that meets both Tasman District Council and NZTA requirements.

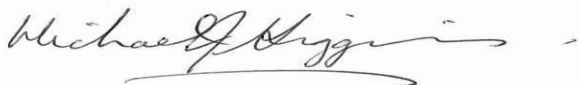
There are other issues where Councillors have worked to avoid penalties and resolve problems to do with roading and highway matters.

I am pleased that today we can work through the Richmond East draft planning issues, and the associated earthquake fault line risk management.

I note that GST is on the agenda. Those of us who operate business accounts are finding that the simple increase in GST is not simple to implement. It is all to do with computer systems and closing off accounts at the change over date. For the Tasman District Council, its a case of meeting our statutory process requirements. We will get there.

Ecofest is coming up, with a few changes this year. It is a good week to be involved and learn about the way people are forging the way towards environmental sustainability. I have emailed out further information about the D'Herville Flue Cube. In my opinion, visual smoke pollution is the matter to be improved. Certainly, PM₁₀ measures are relevant but need to be weighed against the realities of living in the cold. It would be good to pursue this discussion in the next term of Council.

Staff are endeavouring to get the major issues for the year completed in this term of Council, so I am expecting the next meeting to have a full agenda as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Higgins", with a decorative flourish underneath.

Michael Higgins
Chair, Environment & Planning Committee