



Report **05.676**
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Committee **Council**
Author **Ian Buchanan Chairman**

Chairman's Report

1. Horizons visit

A successful two day visit to the region from Horizons' councillors included time in the Wairarapa, wide ranging discussions with GW councillors and an informative session with CentrePort. These are important interactions between the two councils as we are often grappling with similar issues. The format this time seemed to work quite well, with the mixture of field visit (primarily with our staff) and round table discussion on issues. I am sure we will look forward to the return next year.

2. CentrePort

A number of councillors attended the Port Company AGM and briefing with me, followed by the 'site visit' on the tug. The Company is firmly underway with a very ambitious investment programme, both in Port assets (new container cranes) and property developments (Harbour Quays). As a shareholder, our holding company is monitoring progress closely, and seeking additional contact time with the board of CentrePort in order to maintain a high level of confidence in the programme going forward. I also met regularly with CentrePort Chairman Nigel Gould to maintain the "no surprises" approach mutually agreed to. I believe the relationship between shareholder and Board is progressing well.

3. Rail Contract

Acceptance of the draft long-term contract for rail services with Toll NZ by Land Transport NZ has finally been achieved. Some changes to the draft are being dealt with and we are confident that these will not be denied by Toll. Once detailed wording has been agreed to, we will be in a position to sign off. It is hoped that this will not take long, but I have learned that "soon" is a very relative term when dealing with transport matters.

Not directly related but very importantly we have signed the contract for upgrading the Wairarapa SW carriages with Toll and delivery of the first 6-car set remains at February 2007. This signals the first of what will be a series of

procurement decisions and contracts over the next year to achieve the full re-vamp of rail rolling stock over the next 6-8 years.

4. Trolley bus replacement

I have previously signalled issues related to the timing of this project, and much of this has subsequently become public knowledge. Stagecoach consultants are evaluating the Vector system to provide independent advice on the state of the system. This will need to be followed by discussions between the parties and hopefully settlement on a way forward. Unfortunately, this may delay final resolution of a long-term contract for some months. I am quite disappointed by all this but am satisfied that we have done all we can to progress this matter.

5. Meetings, consultations and submissions

- Hutt City - council to council on various matters of mutual interest
- Hon Trevor Mallard - local issue of Korohiwi development proposal and bus parking impacts
- Vossloh-Kiepe marketing visit - extolling the virtues of their electric bus propulsion units
- David Stubbs, Transit Chairman - levels of comfort with Western Corridor process
- Wellington Regional Strategy – ongoing
- Regional Affairs Committee – I have provided a selection of issues and papers dealt with by RAC in the council bulletin
- National Council – various national matters. I have also included in the bulletin a set of “Local Government Wildcards”. These relate to possible scenarios we may be dealing with over the next six months or so and some idea of the implications and possible responses
- Minister of Finance – confirmation of Wellington Transport Package and agreement to Treasury examination of western corridor costings, etc.
- Minister of Transport – introductory
- Minister of Local Government – introductory
- Minister for the Environment - introductory

6. **Constituency review**

A separate paper from officers is in the December Order Paper. This needs to get underway in the New Year. I have approached the following councillors to make up the review sub-committee referred to in the paper:

Cr Baber (South)

Cr Glensor (Hutt)

Cr Long (East)

Cr Shields (West)

I intend to recommend this sub-committee make-up to Council, with Cr Shields as chairperson. They will have a delicate and difficult task during the early part of next year.

7. **End of year**

In closing for the year, I would like to extend my best wishes to you all, councillors and officers alike, for a happy and safe holiday break. Enjoy your families, enjoy your friends and enjoy your country.

8. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Ian Buchanan
Chairman