



Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

A MEETING of the ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday 7 August 2008

Venue: Council Chamber
5 Baring Square West
Ashburton

Time: 1.30 pm

MEMBERS:

His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley
Cr R C Beavan
Cr N A Brown
Cr I J Burgess
Cr J A Everest
Cr K L Holmes
Cr R J Kilworth
Cr J A Kingsbury
Cr L J Leadley
Cr K W P Lowe
Cr P W Reveley
Cr J Sparks
Cr B A Tasker

B LESTER
Chief Executive

1 August 2008

AGENDA

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5.5	Lyndhurst Water Scheme	To be
	Section 7(2)(i) Conduct of negotiations	circulated

Timetable	
1.30 pm	Ordinary Meeting Commences OPENING PRAYER
3 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.15 pm	Sport Mid Canterbury Six Month Report

1 August 2008

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 1/3/1
DATE: 7 August 2008
REPORT TO: Council
FROM: Mayor

4.1. MAYOR'S REPORT

4.1.1 VISIT BY CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – 3RD YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

As in past years, following the visit to Ashburton of a group of third year medical students as part of their study programme, the Christchurch School of Medicine has given \$500 to the Council to make a donation to a suitable agency or committee within the community. In past years Council resolved to forward the contribution as follows:

1998	Order of St John
1999	Alzheimers Association (Ashburton Branch)
2000	Plunket Society Mid-Canterbury Branch)
2002	Ashburton Palliative Care
2003	Ashburton Ostomy Group
2004	Ashburton Benevolent Fund
2005	Ronald McDonald House
2006	St Vincent de Paul Society
2007	Salvation Army

RECOMMENDATION

“That the Christchurch School of Medicine’s donation of \$500 be given to the Ashburton Branch of the SPCA.”
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4.1.2 CALENDAR

Some of the meetings and functions I have attended since reporting to the last Council meeting on 26 June 2008 are as follows:

- 27 June Guest Speaker at Ashburton Hearing Association AGM
- 30 June Met with Mid-South Canterbury Trustees
 - Met with MP Jo Goodhew at ADC
 - Attended ALT Charitable Foundation meeting
- 1 July
 - Met with Fat n Thin Film Company representatives
 - Met with Young Farmer Contest Organiser
- 2 July
 - Attended RDR Directors meeting
- 3 July
 - Attended CCS Disability Awareness Week morning tea
- 4 July
 - Met with Editor, Ashburton Guardian
 - Attended Donation presentation ACL to Performing Arts Centre Trust
- 8 July
 - Attended Book Launch at Museum

- 9 July Met with representatives of Museum Trust
Attended Health Committee meeting
Welcomed Young Farmer Contest participants at Street event
- 10 July Met with North East Ashburton Project Board
Water Subcommittee Briefing
Met with Phil Everest & Peter Lowe
Attended Young Farmer Contest function
- 11 July Addressed meeting of CDHB held in Ashburton
Formally welcomed Young Farmer Contest Event
- 12 July Attended Young Farmer Contest final
- 14 July Attended Advance Ashburton meeting
- 15 July Met with representatives from Ashburton Gun Club
Met with Mayor and staff from Central Otago District Council at ADC to discuss water infrastructure issues
- 16 July Met with G Bateup and M Ross re 5th year medical students rural immersion programme
Attended Seniors Centre Trust meeting
- 17 July Attended North East Ashburton Project Planning Workshop in Christchurch
- 18 July Attended Inaugural Meeting of Canterbury Regional Governance Group in Christchurch
- 19 July Opened Hockey Sports Turf Trust Pavilion
- 20 July Conference Call meeting re Ashburton Hospital / CDHB
Attended ASB social function to mark their 3rd birthday in Ashburton
- 23 July Meeting re Advance Ashburton media profile
- Chaired Mayor's Social Wellbeing Forum
Met with Tim Barnett after the Forum
Attended Ashburton Silver Band Committee meeting
- 24 July Met with David Hawkins, Broadband
Met with representatives of Hakatere residents
- 25 July Attended North East Ashburton Project Board meeting
- 26-30 July Attended LGNZ Conference in Rotorua
- 31 July Invited by Hon David Carter to meet with National's Rural Subcommittee, in Wellington
- 1 August Met with Agresearch representatives
- 3 August Attended function to welcome new CEO, Ashburton Trust
- 4 August Hosted Japan School Exchange Students visiting Mt Hutt College at ADC
Conference call meeting – Canterbury Regional Governance Group
Attended Advance Ashburton Trust meeting
- 5 August Met with representatives from Methven Community Project Group
Attended Ministry of Transport Launches in Wellington (with CEO)
- 6 August Met with Minister of Transport in Wellington, (with CEO)

BEDE O'MALLEY
Mayor

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 2/24/3
DATE: 7 August 2008
REPORT TO: Council
FROM: Chief Executive

4.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

4.2.1 RANGITATA DIVERSION RACE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

We have received notice of the AGM to be held on 13 August 2008 at the Hotel Ashburton at 1.30 pm. Council holds 20% of the ordinary shares and has the ability to appoint a proxy to the meeting to attend and vote. In previous years, Council has appointed the Deputy Mayor and myself to act in their capacity. I would be available to attend the meeting until 3.00 pm at which time we have a delegation from the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. The Mayor will attend the AGM in his position as Director.

RECOMMENDATION

“That The Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive be appointed as proxies for the Ashburton District Council.”

4.2.2 KATE VALLEY LANDFILL — TRANSWASTE CANTERBURY LIMITED

A recent update from the Company on the landfill operation has the following highlights:

- \$240,000 has been provided to local community groups to date
- in the current year to date, 63 bus groups have toured the site
- the company is no longer directly involved in farming
- the Tiromoana Bush Walkway was opened on 20 April. The walkway is closed August/September due to lambing
- oil exploration by Green Gate Ltd has been publicly declared 'dry'

4.2.3 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Government is preparing a Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Plan of Actions, as an adaptation programme for the primary sectors and local government. This is not so much about the causes (noting human activity causes 3% of carbon emissions), but potential outcomes. MAF have recently released a report, indicating the ways our environment will respond in different areas, and projected changes in pasture production. While these changes are small over the whole country, the prediction is for variation from area to area. The MfE Guide for local government in New Zealand analyses possible effects by function. This will be used as a check to our activity plans.

4.2.4 CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL VISIT

The Mayor of Central Otago District Council, plus a councillor and staff member, visited Ashburton on 15 July to discuss and understand water development issues in Ashburton / Canterbury, and issues for Council to deal with.

4.2.5 WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT SIGNS

Agreement for the site location and precise positioning of the “Welcome to Ashburton” district signs at the four entrances to Ashburton District will be finalised next week. New Zealand Transport Agency (previously Transit NZ) have indicated that the signs at Ealing, Rakaia and Rakaia Gorge will need to be located 9m outside the clear zone (generally meaning at least 9m outside the white road edge line) but some further minor adjustments may be required at specific sites to fit with road geometry, site distances etc. A meeting is set for Wednesday 6 August to finalise the specific details at each site. The existing wooden signs are required to be completely removed at the state highway sites. The fourth site at Arundel is on a Council road, so there are no problems in locating its position. It will, however, conform quite closely to NZ Transport Agency requirements as this section of road is one that we have been trying to have returned to the State Highway network, and it will be important to not have issues that can be raised by NZTA against this transfer happening at the next state highway review. Our own planning section have also been consulted.

4.2.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE / A G M

A report will be tabled.

4.2.7 WAIMAKARIRI IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Waimakariri District Council undertook a monitoring report on the introduction of irrigation on the upper Waimakariri Ashley Plain. The scheme commenced operation in the 1999/2000 season. The report was completed July 2008.

The scheme irrigates about 18,000 hectares, and uses some 10.5 cumecs. In 2007, the scheme purchased a farm to develop storage capacity. The area has seen a change to larger farms and dairy conversion.

Environment Canterbury undertake water quantity and quality monitoring. Key findings of the monitoring report include:

- the introduction of the scheme has had a positive on groundwater levels
- there has been no increase in ground water levels
- no increase in nitrate levels in the command area or to the east
- where there was an increase in microbiological contamination (two wells), the source was considered to be from older style septic tanks

4.2.8 METHVEN COMMUNITY BOARD BY-ELECTION

A vacancy has been created on the Methven Community Board with the resignation of Board Member, David den Baars which was received on 22 July 2008. Public notice has been given of an election to be held on Saturday 11 October. Nominations close on 27 August, and voting will be conducted from 19 September.

B LESTER
Chief Executive

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 2/24/3
DATE: 7 August 2008
REPORT TO: Council Meeting
FROM: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: LGNZ Conference Report

4.2.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE / AGM ROTORUA — 28 – 30 July 2008

The Conference / AGM was the last one to be presided over by Basil Morrison, who has been President for the previous seven years. Throughout the 2.5 days, there were a number of tributes made to Basil.

The Mihi and welcome was followed by an address from the Prime Minister. Key points from the Prime Minister's address were as follows:

1. *Prime Minister's Address*

- Central Government funding of local government has increased from 11% to 13% over the last nine years.
- FAR review is unfinished business.
- Rates Inquiry reported that local government funding is 'healthy' with no argument for fundamental change. Central Government will look to provide targeted support for struggling communities rather than across the board support.
- Development contributions now make up to 20% income in high growth areas. Government will consider a specific Auckland levy.
- Government will consider a review of fees and charges to enable recovery of actual and reasonable costs.
- The rates rebate will continue to be CPI adjusted.
- Does not agree to a Funding Review Authority or a centralised valuation system.
- Government has agreed to extend the rural electricity reticulation guarantee period beyond 2013 and produce NES on fresh water management. Renewable generation is next on their agenda.
- Also proposed is new legislation to give effect to 'liquor plans' — considering outlet density, location, hours of operation. Government considers the current liberalisation has gone too far.

2. *Brian Dollery, Professor of Economics, Director for the Centre of Local Government at the University of New England.*

The presentation was on financial sustainability, based on the Australian experience:

- Australian Reviews 2001, 2004, 2006, all found acute financial distress in local government, with local infrastructure badly affected by decisions to postpone expenditure.
- State-based reviews (2005-2007) also came to the same conclusion.
- Problems caused by:
 - devolution of responsibilities from higher tiers

- cost shifting from higher tiers
- raising the bar
- increased community expectations
- policies of choice, without adequate funding
- Estimated infrastructure backlog of \$12-\$15 billion
- Solutions:
 - Structural reform (amalgamation) but history shows this is not the answer
 - Better asset management, but not a fix on its own
 - Shared services, but international analysis indicate modest gains
 - Federal/state/local infrastructural funds, debt finance through bond issues
- New Zealand review indicates \$31 billion of expenditure over the next 10 years, but no quantification of backlog. Rates are a high proportion of income, and growing.
 - Sees need for central government intervention to alleviate pressures
 - New Zealand reforms, including AMP's way ahead of Australia
 - Will also see higher debt levels

A summary of a report commissioned by Professor Dollery by LGNZ is **attached**.

3. *Judy McGregor, EEO Commissioner, Human Rights Commission.*

Commented on a number of her observations:

- The Age Effect — will we work forever?
 - Continue for financial reasons, or because we can
 - Median age in local government in some areas to be 50 in 2025 (from 36)
 - Need to keep people in the workforce to grow GDP
- Local Government, 21% female Mayor/Deputy/Chair roles
- Community Engagement
 - Public have 'wised up' to the limitations of consultation
 - Image is becoming an issue, with lower voter turnout
 - Young people disengaged

4. *Local Government Funding (Adam Jackson, Simpson Grierson)*

- The Securities (Local Government Exemption) Amendment Act 2008 gives more flexibility to local government
- \$31 billion expenditure over the next 10 years
 - Rooding 44%
 - Waters 29%
 - Community services 18%
- Debt to peak at \$8.2 billion, with total assets \$116 billion
- Amendment Act to give a alternative to institutional borrowing
 - Public can invest in their communities
 - Potentially lower cost
 - Change re: prospectus requirement
 - Standard documentation will be developed to reduce costs

5. John Key, Leader of the Opposition

Key points made, if National become government, were as follows:

- Review of Local Electoral Act to give more local flexibility on representation, continue with Central/Local forum, also attend Regional forums each term
- Assured the lines of communication will always be open, acknowledging that this had not always been the case in the past
- Growth needs to be addressed. The current wage differential with Australia is 30%, if the current growth difference continues, by 2030 this will be 60%
- Central Government has \$30 million to spend on infrastructure, and has a lot to learn from local government with respect to long term planning.
- Will develop a common infrastructure framework
 - Allow local communities to assess own needs
 - If national interest demands different levels, then will work jointly (funding, legislation, structured public/private partnerships)
 - Will assist to deliver essential infrastructure
- Acknowledged central government has imposed additional functions, unfunded; 60 different pieces of legislation in last 9 years
 - Will look for a better process for delegating powers and for funding additional work
 - Will introduce legislation (within 100 days) to simplify RMA
 - Acknowledges issues with respect to the Building Act to be addressed
 - Will encourage joint service delivery
 - Will look to preventative policing, strengthen Neighbourhood Support
 - Will work with Councils to benchmark best practice
- There was recognition that if the additional requirements on local government cannot be financed at a cheaper rate, then it is unlikely to happen

6. Simon Upton – Consultant, PWC

Simon spoke on the theme “What you don’t know can hurt you”.

This related to climate change. He was the Environment Minister, introducing the Resource Management Act in 1991. He is Chairman of the OECD Round Table on Sustainable Development. Some interesting facts:

- Human activity results in 3% of the world’s carbon emissions
- Human activity results in 100% of nitrogen introduced
- Of the Earth’s surface (51 billion hectares), only 11.3 billion is productive. With a population of 6 billion, equating to 1.8 ha/person.
- Food production will become a critical issue, we need to ‘hang out with science’.
- Regional Councils need to be benchmarked against prescribed outcomes

7. Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing was defined as ‘30% of gross household income going to mortgages (or rent).’

Queenstown example

- Driven by land supply, construction (location, topography) urban design (size), funding (interest cost), investment alternatives (2nd house)
- Development Housing Trust

- Focus on equity share
- Be an active developer
- Work on building form
- Look at construction systems
- Undertaking project management
- Developer Incentives, to provide 5% of value to the Trust
 - Rates remission
 - Development contribution remission
 - Easier consenting routes
 - Concession re: density, height, parking

Waitakere

- More on advocacy role
- Rejuvenating own housing stock
- Hobsonville development (including stormwater retention)

Housing New Zealand, noted declining home ownership (1986 74%, 2006 67%)

8. *Transpower Technical Session (Stream 1) (Mayor)*

- **Managing land-use impacts on water**

The Rotorua Lakes (12 in total) are experiencing severe water quality issues and in recognition of the national standing of the lakes, central government is playing a role in a long term programme to solve the lakes water quality issue. While central funding has assisted, the initiative is being driven by Environment Bay of Plenty, Rotorua District Council and Te Arawa to overcome the historical uses of the catchments that feed water to the lakes. The wide range of approaches being used include:

- development of action plans for the lakes
- infrastructure development (ie sewerage scheme upgrades)
- investigation of best practice nutrient management
- education of nutrient issues
- ongoing stream and lake edge protection including fencing and planting
- implementation of regulation (rule 11)

Rule 11 tackles the issue of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) inputs into the lakes by setting a limit on the amount leaving all properties in the most vulnerable catchments, effectively stopping further increases in N and P inputs from activities like agriculture. Because of the large catchment there will be a significant lag time for any significant improvement. Rule 11 aims to pioneer a regime where consents allow “nutrient trading” as a tool for changing land use and farming practice.

Lake Taupo also has water quality issues and they forecast that it might take 70 years to improve water quality. They are targeting a reduction in Nitrate levels of greater than 20% and there will be emphasis on improving on-site waste water treatment (ie septic tank). They are quantifying the amount of nitrogen leeching and there will be an NDA (nitrogen discharge allowance) as part of the consenting process. The NDA will be able to be traded when land is sold, subdivided or developed so that land use can be more accurately matched with its capability.

9. Smart Initiatives for Sustainable Infrastructure (Stream 2) (Mayor)

While the connection between infrastructure and sustainability is not new, there is growing pressure on Councils to give priority consideration to demand management mechanisms in infrastructure management. I chaired this session, whose goal was to provide an overview of relevant research and some practical case studies in the areas of sustainable water and waste management. The popular definition of sustainability is “ensuring the needs of the current generation are met without compromising the needs of future generations”.

The presentation by Beacon Pathways Ltd (a research consortium) is the most valuable. It concentrated on water use efficiency and they have targets of reducing demand for reticulated water (per capita) of 40% and council mains supply of 50%. The pricing tool they promote is water metering which is generally shown to have immediate long lasting impacts on reducing water use. Tauranga reduced water use by 25%. Nelson is considering further demand management as alternative to contributing to a new dam. Wastewater charging has been considered the most significant demand management intervention in Auckland city. The average daily per capita consumption (lpd) of seven metered supplies was 184 (Nelson 160 and Tauranga 214).

The unmetered supplies ranged from 227 to 750 (Queenstown), while the Christchurch figure was 333. Obviously metering is only one of a number of tools and creative education supported by other policies is also required. This session produced the best quote of the conference:

“We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them”.

— Albert Einstein.

The Kapiti Coast District council has a sustainable water use strategy that aims to reduce demand by requiring non-potable water (grey water) for uses not needing potable water. Currently there are no national standards and grey water reuse so Kapiti have adapted the criteria that satisfies NSW health. People building in residential areas now have to incorporate water demand management into house design that reduces peak and average demand by 30%. Not including approved grey water diversion device and/or rain water storage will make the land use consent non-complying!

The Tauranga City Zero Waste Project aims to minimise waste in business, which contributes more than 60% of the total waste stream. The programme began in 2002 and the presentation focused on the work centred around the Bayfair Shopping Centre at Mt Maunganui. They are concentrating on shrink wrap, food waste, cardboard, paper and plastic bottle recycling but the most startling result is the reduction of electricity consumption by over one million kw, equivalent to unplugging Bayfair for months!

10. RAC – Water Management Subcommittee (Mayor)

The meeting focused on the release of the proposed National Policy Statement for freshwater Management (NPS). An independent Board made up of Judge David Sheppard (Chairman), Kevin Prime, Jervin Vernon and Dr Jon Harding will call for submissions. The proposed NPS identifies and addresses water quality and managing increasing demands for water as matters of national significance. The NPS has been developed to take into account recreational aspirations, cultural, values and environmental and economic considerations. Four national environmental standards (NES) will complement the proposed NPS:

- NES for measurement of water takes (water monitoring)

- NES on ecological flows and water levels
- NES for sources of human drinking water
- NES for on-site wastewater systems

There are a number of discussion documents justifying the logic behind the necessity of these NES and of particular note is the concern surrounding wastewater systems.

11. *Developing World Class Facilities (K Holmes)*

On Sunday afternoon there was a technical tour “Developing World Class facilities” which involved a tour of the year old Energy Events centre and the Art Gallery/Museum.

The Event Centre is a truly magnificent building that has been added to an existing facility built in 1966. The new building is broken into two parts, an area 39m x 22m which was the venue for the meeting part of the Conference, and an area 70m x 45m which amongst other functions, can seat 2600 people for a meal. The entire venue now has the capability of seven local type courts for netball/basketball and four for national tournaments. The cost of building the centre was \$28,000,000 which attracted a contribution from Rotorua District Council of \$6,000,000, matched by an equal amount from the Rotorua Energy Trust, which seems to match any Council contribution dollar for dollar on major projects.

The centre costs almost \$1.5 million to run and the income from the activities match this cost. However, the depreciation is not funded. Their budget for use and income has been exceeded by almost 50% since opening. With 13,500 tourist beds available, Rotorua are promoting this venue to fill the off season with Conferences and the like.

The visit to the Art Gallery/Museum was absolutely amazing. The refurbishment of the building which was initially built as the Bath House is intended to take six years and be finished by 2011.

The project involves the restoration of the building, its appointments and the extension to create what was the project dream in 1906. That initial cost was 25,000 pounds and the project was never completed due to cost overruns. The detail of restoration and the energy and passion of the staff and contractors is evident to see. The project cost is \$22 million and is funded by Rotorua District (6m), Rotorua Energy Trust (6m), Heritage grants(7.5) and other smaller trusts. The Curator expounded the very good donations from the local community and when I asked the level of this support, he replied \$200,000.

Whatever, the cost is, it will be a truly remarkable building when finished.

12. *Strengthening our Peoples Technical Workshop (K Holmes)*

On Tuesday morning I attended the “Strengthening our Peoples” technical workshop. This workshop involved a tour of Rotorua’s facilities for Youth, Arts and Community Assets that support the Council’s social responsibility. This, I can assure, is vastly greater than our own. It would seem that there is plenty of Central Government monies and grants available to the social, cultural and ethnic needs that Rotorua possesses. As they said, it is a matter of knowing how to access that funding.

The community supports a Youth drop-in centre, a Youth health centre and a Community House. The drop-in centre offers support for younger people to spend time on social activities and the like. The Health centre supports a part time doctor and full time nurse and sees 400 youth a week. The Community House supports 25 local groups in much the same way our resource centre does.

On top of all this is a Trust (Te Waiariki Pūrea Trust) which oversees the applications to Central Government funding and generally oversees the Rotorua District's social policy and expectations. It employs more than 20 people who continually are accessing funding for a myriad of activities.

Part of the time was spent at a facility that supports outdoor pursuits at Lake Okareka which sees some 8000 young people through its doors each year.

After lunch we were asked to participate in general discussion as to how our own areas compare. We do okay I suggest but at a much lower level of activity and demand. Speaking to a Papakura District Councillor who said they are trying to deal with 800 truants a day, puts it all in perspective when the person beside you is from Westland District with a total population of 8000.

13. "Growing Communities Through Digital Technologies" (K Holmes)

On Tuesday afternoon I attended a workshop "Growing communities through digital technologies."

This was in three parts:

- an outline what the 7 TLA's in Bay of Plenty are doing to ensure Broadband is delivered to the entire region;
- an update by Telecom's Chorus as to the expansion of Broadband throughout regions and how they see Local Government being involved;
- a presentation from Porirua City as to how they are ensuring their community is at the forefront of the technology push.

There are many lessons to be learned from others on a wide range of topics. Many can be given by us and many can be noted by us. I thank the Council for the opportunity to attend this conference. I believe we, as a body, don't encourage more Councillors to attend as there is a lot to be gained from the experience. Networking, talking/asking questions of others and giving our own experiences allows us all to learn and deliver better results. I would like the Council to consider more involvement as the more times you go the greater the benefit to the individual.

All information regarding workshops etc is available on the Local Government Website www.lgnz.co.nz.

14. Annual General Meeting

Eighty four Councils were represented at the AGM, exercising 243 votes. In the first items of business, Lawrence Yule was elected President (151/85), and Kerry Prendergast Vice President (202/38)

- Remit 1 Seeking to retain Crown's contribution to Tb control was **Carried**
- Remit 2 Seeking to classify broadband services as key national infrastructure to give equity of access was **Carried**
- Remit 3 to enable elected members to participate in meeting by video / teleconference. **Carried**, but subject to development on policy framework
- Remit 4 to establish a Maori Advisory Group to National Council. **Carried** (112/100)

Summary

Once again, there was an interesting array of presentations and workshops. Similarly, the breaks and social activities gave opportunities for further discussion and comparison. At the end of the event, it was good to get home (eventually). We would thank the Council for the opportunity to attend.

Mayor Bede O'Malley
Councillor Kelvin Homes
Chief Executive Brian Lester