

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Wallacetown Community Board will be held on:

**Date:** Thursday, 24 August 2017  
**Time:** 7.00pm  
**Meeting Room:** Wallacetown Community Centre  
**Venue:** Dunlop Street, Wallacetown

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## Wallacetown Community Board Agenda

### OPEN

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#### MEMBERSHIP

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Chairperson</b>        | Peter Laurie     |
| <b>Deputy Chairperson</b> | Frank Shearing   |
| <b>Members</b>            | Tony Billyard    |
|                           | Trina Eade       |
|                           | Treena Symons    |
|                           | Rae Wilson       |
| <b>Councillor</b>         | Gavin Macpherson |

#### IN ATTENDANCE

|                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Committee Advisor</b>            | Fiona Dunlop       |
| <b>Community Partnership Leader</b> | Michelle Stevenson |

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**Full agendas are available on Council's Website**  
**[www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz)**



## **Terms of Reference – Community Boards**

Community Boards are bodies established by statute. Their responsibilities and powers are as delegated by the Southland District Council which are to:

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interest of its community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Southland District Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the Southland District Council within the community.
- Consider annual estimates for expenditure within the community and recommend these to Council.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Southland District Council.

In addition to these activities, Community Boards will consider how best to provide for their communities, and the people who live there, into the future.

Community Board members will provide leadership by:

- Positively representing their community and the Southland District
- Identifying key issues that will affect their community's future and work with Council staff and other local representatives to facilitate multi-agency collaborative opportunities.
- Promote a shared vision for the wider community of interest area and develop ways to work with others to achieve positive outcomes
- Community Boards will adopt a strategic focus that will enable members to:
- Provide local representation and guidance on wider community issues, initiatives and projects.
- Contribute to the development and promotion of community cohesion, by developing and supporting relationships across a range of stakeholders at a local, regional and national level.
- Take part in local community forums, meetings and workshops.
- Inform local residents and ratepayers on issues that affect them.

Community Boards shall have the following delegated powers and be accountable to Council for the exercising of these powers

### **Engagement and representation by:**

- Facilitating the Council's consultation with local residents and community groups on local issues and local aspects of district wide issues including input into the Long-term Plan, Annual Plan, and policies that impact on the Board's area.
- Engaging with council officers on local issues and levels of service, including infrastructural, recreational, community services and parks, reserves and cemetery matters.
- Representing the interests of the community at Council, Committee or Subcommittee meetings when a motion under debate relates to a matter that the Board considers to be of particular interest to the residents within its community.
- Monitoring and keeping the Council informed of community aspirations and the level of satisfaction with services provided.

### **Financial by:**

- Approving expenditure within the limits of annual estimates.
- Approving unbudgeted expenditure for locally funded activities up to the value of \$10,000.

### **Rentals and leases**

- In relation to all leases of land and buildings within their own area, on behalf of Council;
    - Accepting the highest tenders for rentals of \$10,000; or less per annum.
    - Approving the preferential allocation of leases where the rental is \$10,000 or less per annum.
-

**Local assets and facilities by**

- Overseeing the management of local halls and community centres which are owned by Council and where no management committee exists. This will occur by way of relationship with officers of Southland District Council.
- Appoint a local liaison person responsible for community housing.

Some Community Boards have specific delegations in addition to the broad delegations above:

**Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board**

- Contributing to the development of policy relating to the governance of the Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority (SIESA).
- Overseeing the management of SIESA by way of relationship with officers of Southland District Council.

**Te Anau Community Board**

- Overseeing the management of the Te Anau/Manapouri Airport by way of relationship with officers of Southland District Council.

The Community Boards can make recommendations to Council on:

**Assets and Facilities**

- Annually providing feedback on any asset management plans or community services strategies applicable to the community for which the Community Board is responsible.

**Rentals and leases**

- In relation to all leases of land and buildings within their own area, on behalf of Council;
  - Recommending rentals in excess of \$10,000 per annum to the Group Manager Services and Assets
  - Recommending the preferential allocation of leases where the rental is in excess of \$10,000 per annum to the Group Manager Services and Assets.

**Contracts/Tenders**

- Recommending tenders less than \$200,000 to the Group Manager Services and Assets.
- Recommending tenders in excess of \$200,000 to the Services and Assets Committee.
- Recommending tenders to the Services and Assets Committee where preference is not for acceptance of the highest tenderer,

**Financial**

- Recommending annual estimates to Council.
- Recommending unbudgeted expenditure in excess of \$10,000 to the Services and Assets Committee.

**Local Policy**

- Considering matters referred to it by officers, the Council, its committees or subcommittees, including reports and policy and bylaw proposals relating to the provision of council services within the Board's area; and
- Making submissions or recommendations in response to those matters as appropriate.

The Chairperson of each Community Board is delegated with the following additional responsibilities:

- Approval of leases, rental agreements and the rollover of existing contracts under \$1,000;
- Engaging with Community Board members to make submissions to the Council on behalf of the Community Board where a submission period is outside of the Community Board meeting cycle. Where a Chairperson is unable to base a submission on a consensus among Community Board members, a Community Board meeting must be held.

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**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Next meeting: 26 October 2017, at 7.00pm

## **1 Apologies**

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

## **2 Leave of absence**

At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.

## **3 Conflict of Interest**

Committee Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

## **4 Public Forum**

Notification to speak is required by 5pm at least two days before the meeting. Further information is available on [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) or phoning 0800 732 732.

## **5 Extraordinary/Urgent Items**

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the committee to consider any further items which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.

Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:

- (i) the reason why the item was not on the Agenda, and
- (ii) the reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

(a) that item may be discussed at that meeting if-

- (i) that item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
  - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

## Council Report

Record No: R/17/7/15764

Author: Michelle Stevenson, Community Partnership Leader

Approved by: Rex Capil, Group Manager Community and Futures

☐ Decision

☐ Recommendation

☒ Information

### Chief Executive

#### Bonamia Ostreae Response

- 1 There has been a significant multi-agency response in relation to the discovery of the Bonamia Ostreae parasite in two marine farms in the Big Glory Bay area of Stewart Island. This parasite can be fatal to flat oysters and has been in New Zealand in the Nelson/Marlborough area since 2015.
- 2 This response has been led by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and there is a controlled area notice in place which legally restricts the movement of shellfish, vessels and equipment, to seek to limit the potential for spread of the parasite to uninfected areas.
- 3 The response has also been utilising the facilities and support structures provided by Emergency Management Southland and the Emergency Control Centre (ECC) at North Road. MPI staff have been very complimentary regarding the ECC and the assistance from Emergency Management Southland.
- 4 Southland District Council has been involved in the response in two key ways. Firstly, Mayor Tong has facilitated several key meetings involving key stakeholders/ communities at Bluff and Oban. Secondly, the Council was asked to participate in the multi-agency response planning team.
- 5 A focus of the initial stage of the response planning work was to seek to establish a location to dispose of the large volume of removed material. It was resolved that the most appropriate location for disposal was the regional landfill operated by AB Lime at Kings Bend. AB Lime have been proactive in working with the response team to facilitate this disposal occurring.
- 6 The operation of physically removing the affected marine farms is a significant body of work, and obviously this operation planning has to have very strong regard to the biosecurity and health and safety risks which are applicable to this work. Working in the marine environment and in waters which can be at times very rough means that the work programme need to be factored around the ability to safely perform key tasks, having regard to factors such as fatigue and climatic conditions. Indications are at this stage that the overall operation could take in the order of 100 days but this is obviously dependent on a range of these factors.
- 7 At the time of writing, phase 2 of the operation has been completed which involves the removal of the remaining cages, with a total of approximately 80 tonnes of cages having been removed by the end of Stage 2. Stage 3 involves the uplifting and removal of ropes and strings from the marine farms.
- 8 The Biosecurity Act includes compensation provisions for losses where actions are necessitated by provisions within the Act. The MPI website provides further information on this issue. Council has no statutory role in relation to the issue of compensation.

- 9 Obviously, the removal operation is having a significant impact on the affected famers, families and staff and the wider community. MPI has been working closely with the Rural Support Trust and other agencies to provide welfare services and support.
- 10 Testing has been occurring to establish whether the parasite is present in the wild oyster beds in Foveaux Strait. The results from this work were released on 10 July and have shown that it is not present at the moment. Further testing will occur in September.

### Civil Defence Review

- 11 As indicated in the last Management report Central Government have decided to carry out a review of the way in which natural disasters and other emergencies are currently managed by the existing civil defence structures.
- 12 The review is described as: "Better responses to natural disasters and other emergencies in New Zealand", and will be led by a Technical Advisory Group ("TAG") which is chaired by Hon Roger Sowry.
- 13 The terms of reference for the review have now been released. In the problem definition section they note that:
- The underlying principle of "act locally, coordinate regionally, support nationally" may not be suitable in all circumstances
  - Decisions are not necessarily made by adequately skilled and experienced people, mandated at the appropriate level of government, and supported by the best information possible in the circumstances
  - Volunteers may not be adequately supported by a professional emergency management force
  - Information is not always readily available to decision makers on the scale, complexity and evolving nature of an emergency, to determine the capacity and capabilities required for the response effort
  - There is a need for timely, consistent and accurate communication to the public
  - Response capabilities are not necessarily deployed as promptly and seamlessly as possible, *taking advantage of economies of scale and the experience of senior responders.*
- 14 The overall focus of the review will be on:
- The decision-making process and chain of command including the devolved nature of this structure from central to local government and how the response to emergencies is managed by the different agencies
  - How decisions and who has power to declare a state of emergency
  - The nature of information flows to the public and media given available technology and the nature of the resources available locally and centrally to assist
  - Capability and capacity across the system including ways and means to better deploy resources depending on priorities
  - Whether legislative changes are needed to improve the way in which emergencies are managed.
- 15 An initial report from the Technical Advisory Group is required to be with the Minister by 1 September 2017.



- 16 Officers will continue to monitor the review as it proceeds and report on any outcomes of significance to Southland.

### **Rural Fire**

- 17 The transition process to merge Rural Fire Authorities with the NZ Fire Service to create Fire and Emergency Management NZ (FENZ) was completed with the establishment of FENZ on 1 July 2017. This included the transfer of all Rural Fire Southland staff and assets into the new structure.
- 18 As part of the transition process Council entered into a formal agreement with FENZ to provide for the sale of the relevant firefighting equipment to FENZ for \$1 as previously approved by Council. The agreement also provides for the continuation of some internal support services for a further 12 month period until FENZ is in a position to assume responsibility for these functions.

### **Open Spaces Strategy**

- 19 Council adopted, in late 2014, an Open Spaces Strategy to set a strategic framework within which the provision and planning for reserves and other open spaces owned by Council could be managed.
- 20 While the strategy sets the overall strategic goals within which Council is looking to manage its reserves and open spaces there is a need for more detailed planning work and a prioritised work programme to be developed to support implementation of the overall strategy.
- 21 Officers are now having work advanced to:
- Assess current usage and the issues associated with our current open space network relative to community demand
  - Assess the extent to which the network is currently 'fit for purpose' and understand any gaps that might need to be addressed
  - Develop a prioritised work programme for the district as a whole to ensure that Council can deliver on its overall strategic goals.

- 22 The outputs from the prioritised work programme can be used to inform the 2018 10 Year Plan and any future grant applications that Council may wish to make.

- 23 It is important to recognise that the programme will look at the priorities from a district wide perspective. There is a risk that individual communities (including Community Boards and CDAs) may have a view on priorities that is different to that which is established at the district level.

### **LGNZ Business Plan**

- 24 LGNZ has developed a new Business Plan for the 2017-2019 term to continue to assist achieve policy and advocacy goals.
- **Infrastructure:** Ensuring infrastructure and associated funding mechanisms are in place to allow for growth and maintenance across housing, building, transport, broadband, tourism-related, three waters and flood control infrastructure.
  - **Risk and resilience:** Understanding and addressing risks from natural hazards and other events – both for infrastructure and to support resilience in the economy and our communities.
  - **Environmental:** Leading and championing policy and working alongside central government and iwi to deal with the increasing impact of environmental issues

including climate change, the quality and quantity of New Zealand's freshwater resources, and biodiversity.

- **Social:** Working alongside central government, iwi and stakeholders to address social issues and needs in our communities including an ageing population, disparity between social groups, housing (including social housing) supply and quality, and community safety.
- **Economic:** Developing a range of policy levers, to address and fund economic development and growth across all of New Zealand.

- 25 The Plan identifies as priorities the need to proactively develop responses to climate change policy and water policy. The climate change work will build on the sector's work around risk and resilience and the roles we will have to play in climate change adaptation and contribution to mitigation. The work on water policy will seek to integrate the quality, quantity, infrastructure and affordability debates.

### **Tourism Infrastructure Fund**

- 26 The new Tourism Infrastructure Fund was recently announced by Tourism Minister Hon. Paula Bennett.
- 27 The \$102 million fund over four years is a boost for tourism infrastructure funding and recognises the real need some communities are facing as a result of booming visitor numbers. Compared with the \$12 million over four years in the Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund announced last year, the new fund adds impetus in this area.
- 28 The panel responsible for assessing proposals and recommending a package of infrastructure projects that best aligns with the Government's priorities for the fund was announced by Tourism Minister Paula Bennett.
- 29 The panel members, appointed for a four year term, are:
- Judy Kirk (chair), consultant and experienced director
  - Norm Thompson (deputy chair), Deputy Chair of Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development
  - Kauahi Ngapora, General Manager of Whale Watch Kaikoura
  - Chris Roberts, Chief Executive of Tourism Industry Aotearoa
  - Sarah Hannan, Programme Director for the Southland Regional Development Strategy
  - Iain Cossar, General Manager Tourism, Sectors, Regions and Cities at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
  - Bruce Parkes, Deputy Director-General Science and Policy at the Department of Conservation.

### **Community Safety**

- 30 There have been concerns raised about police resourcing in smaller communities and there has been some movement towards redressing the balance.
- 31 Earlier this year, the Government announced new investment in police. Of an extra 880 police to hit the ground over the next four years 140 are destined for rural and regional areas, a further 20 stations will have a 24/7 officer on duty and all 12 police districts are to receive more police over the four years. The Southern Region is to receive an extra 37 police on top of the 557 sworn staff already policing the Southern Region. The Southland Rural Police base is still to be confirmed.

32 Local authorities are encouraged to continue to highlight the issues being faced by communities in their areas. We as a Council now have an opportunity to further work with the Commissioner, our local Area Commanders and the Government to make sure the safety of our communities improves. While four years is a long time to wait, the challenge of recruiting and training 880 new officers cannot be underestimated.

33 LGNZ and Chair of the Rural Sector Brian Hanna has met with police Commissioner Mike Bush to discuss the rollout in greater detail and the effectiveness of the regional 'hub' model for rural towns, which has been the source of some concern.

### **Local Government Survey**

34 LGNZ has recently released the 2017 Local Government Survey, which is the second three yearly survey looking at how the sector is perceived by citizens and businesses across New Zealand.

35 The overall outcome from the survey is similar to the first survey completed in 2014. In summary the key results include:

- The public and businesses consider that local government has an increasingly important role in the country's prosperity and well-being
- The sectors reputation remains low, and is particularly low amongst businesses
- There have been, however, some improvements since 2014 with a small positive movement in the public's overall satisfaction with the performance of the sector and the public and businesses are also more positive of the recent performance of Councils in their area than they are of the sector as a whole
- Key priority areas for improvement continue to be sound financial decision making, delivering strong leadership to develop strategies for prosperity and well-being, and listening to, and acting upon, the needs of the community
- Compared with 2014 the public and businesses are more likely to want local government to lift its performance by dealing with some of the key issues of the day including transport, infrastructure and housing.

36 The findings from this latest survey reinforce the need for the sector as a whole to continue to focus on looking at ways to lift its performance and to also engage with communities about the work that it does. The strategic priorities that Council has developed locally are consistent with this overall theme.

37 At a national level LGNZ have developed the CouncilMARK excellence programme to support the work of local authorities that are aiming to lift their performance.

### **CouncilMARK™ Local Government Excellence Programme and Reputation Research**

38 Reports from the first group of councils to go through the programme are due to be released in July. It has taken a lot of work from the councils involved, assessors, the Independent Assessment Board and the team at LGNZ to get to this point. It is certainly a comprehensive and collaborative process and the outcomes are going to be effective in achieving the Programme's goal of showing and growing local government performance.

39 This is a courageous and necessary step in the sector's long term interest. If we want to change our reputation and our standing with the public then as a sector we have to take action and the Programme will play a critical role in achieving this

### **Te Anau Wastewater Discharge Project**

- 40 At its 17 May meeting Council asked officers to proceed with the development of a Business Case for the Kepler option. This decision reflects the importance of Council continuing to progress development of this option given the need to have an alternative discharge fully operational by December 2020, unless new consents can be obtained to extend use of the existing Upukerora discharge.
- 41 Following this decision officers have been advancing work to develop the first phase strategic business case and also scope the work needed to develop the financial and commercial business cases needed. This has included workshops to define/refine the key objectives, criteria and weightings.
- 42 In parallel with the work on the Kepler Business Case officers are also progressing development of potential criteria and a process via which it might identify potentially suitable alternative disposal sites. Work is underway to develop these criteria with a report back on these going to the Te Anau Wastewater Project Committee in August. As part of this work officers have undertaken some preliminary GIS work looking at the property sizes, soil classes, and physiographics of the basin.

### **Milford Opportunities Project**

- 43 A strategic Business Case for the Milford Opportunities Project was submitted to the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) during June along with details of the proposed governance arrangements for the project. The business case is needed to support the funding agreement that is proposed to be signed between MBIE, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Council for the project.
- 44 Over recent months there has been significant work advanced by DOC and Milford Sound Tourism looking at different aspects relating to the long term development of Milford and what those development options might mean for the infrastructure and services for which each agency is responsible. The outputs from this work will be used to inform the Milford Opportunities Project strategy work.

### **Using Land for Housing**

- 45 On 17 June the Productivity Commission released a draft report on “Using Land for Housing”. While the report focuses on the processes used within major cities to provide land for housing including the issues relating to housing affordability it is of relevance to all local authorities given that it could well lead to changes within the overall planning framework within which local government works.
- 46 Key issues identified in the report include:
- some of New Zealand’s cities will continue to grow rapidly in the coming years
  - cities have struggled to respond to population growth
  - the projected supply of housing in Auckland is well short of what is needed
  - allowing cities to grow matters for economic growth and individual wellbeing
  - city planning and regulation can work better
  - land readiness matters
  - infrastructure can be a major bottleneck
  - there is scope to make better use of existing funding tools
  - incentives to put land to its best use are needed.

- 47 In response to these issues the Commission have proposed a number of recommendations including:
- allowing large cities to undertake integrated spatial planning as an alternative to current statutory planning mechanisms. This is consistent with recommendations made through previous reviews of the RMA that all regions be required to undertake spatial planning exercises
  - remove regulations that prevent the efficient use of land for housing eg mandatory balconies for apartment
  - give greater priority to cities and housing in the RMA
  - more user charges, particularly for water services, and the removal of prohibitions on tolling and congestion charges
  - greater use of targeted rates to fund infrastructure required to support growth
  - levy rates on Crown-owned land
  - identify and pursue opportunities to develop Crown and local authority land in high growth cities.
- 48 The draft report has been released for public consultation until 4 August. Following consideration of any submissions received the Commission will release a final report which will be considered by central Government.

### **Southland Regional Development Strategy**

- 49 Work has continued with the development of the proposed Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) to lead regional development activity, including the implementation of the SoRDS Action Plan.
- 50 The size of the challenge facing Southland Region was reflected in the Foreward from the Mayoral Forum in the Action Plan where the four Mayors/Chair indicated:
- “The comprehensive development of the region and reversing the loss of population from the demographic time bomb facing us is a challenge at another order of magnitude compared to those we have faced previously.”*
- 51 Given the challenge it is clear that the region needs to significantly lift its performance in advancing development of the region as a whole. While the SoRDS Action Plan provides an overall direction it needs a ‘whole of region’ entity to take it and the broader regional development work needed forward. The need for this was summarised in the SoRDS Action Plan as follows:
- “But the challenges SoRDS is addressing are major, long term and require a strong united regional effort on a scale even Southland has not before achieved.”*
- 52 If progress is to be made in addressing the challenges facing the Region then it is important that Southland District and the region as a whole be prepared to do things differently to the way in which they have been done in the past. Retention of the status quo will not achieve the changes the SoRDS Action Plan indicated as being necessary.
- 53 The work completed to look at a proposed new model has highlighted some differences between the four Councils and other community stakeholders which will need to be addressed as we look at moving forward with the development of a new implementation model.

## **Community and Futures**

### **Representation Review**

- 54 Planning is underway to meet both the statutory requirements of the Representation Review and to inform and engage with the people of Southland.
- 55 The first part of the process will be for Council to consider at meetings in September and October decisions regarding the electoral system to be used for the 2019 and 2022 local authority elections (First Past the Post or Single Transferrable Vote) and whether it wants to consider establishing a Maori ward in the district. These decisions are both required in the legislation.
- 56 Stakeholder engagement will start to occur on the Community Governance Review and Representation Review will be discussed at the Community Conversations in October and November. The issue of representation has already begun to be raised at the April Community Conversations meetings.

### **SOLGM Workshop**

- 57 Officers recently attended the Representation Review Forum run by the Society for Local Government Managers for councils who will be undertaking a Review in 2018. Fifty seven councils are completing reviews. This was a timely reminder about the processes to consider, an opportunity to hear best practice examples, and get advice from the Local Government Commission on their expectations. The learnings from this forum will feed into the planning for the Representation Review.

### **Community Conversations**

- 58 Council has just completed its second round of Community Conversations in Riverton, Te Anau, Tokanui, Wyndham, Lumsden, Winton, Otautau and Stewart Island. Good numbers turned out at every conversation and there was a wide range of topics discussed. The key topics included connectivity, tourism and freedom camping, environmental bottom lines, representation, technology and the changing world.
- 59 Most groups were actively looking to the future and wanted to talk about ensuring their community kept up with the change that is happening. Council plans to hold the next round of Community Conversations in late October-early November, with a focus on community governance and representation and the upcoming Long Term Plan.

### **Residents Survey**

- 60 The Resident survey has been completed with a report presented to the Community and Policy meeting in June for information. The research company presented an overview of the results to the committee. Workshops will be held in July with the council activity managers to discuss the results and create any required improvement plans. The final results report will be added to the website and sent to the CDAs and CBs.

### **Te Anau Community Consultation**

- 61 The Board continues to refine the list the community created and will have another workshop on 10 July to continue advancement. The end result will then go back out to the community for a further opportunity to comment.

### **Stewart Island Wharves update**

- 62 The community engagement into the Stewart Island wharves owned by Southland District Council and Golden Bay wharf (currently owned by Southport NZ) has concluded.

- 63 The independent consultant has completed her report and it will be submitted to Council in August. The engagement process has been well acknowledged and received 102 survey submissions, 3 days of one-to-one interviews on the island, an evening conversation café, and numerous stakeholder interviews on the island and in Invercargill. Preliminary responses indicate there are some common themes coming through from stakeholders and the community that Council may investigate following the report being presented to Council in August.
- 64 The wharves are an important transport link on Stewart Island, and have been described by the community as their SH1. They accommodate commercial, tourism and recreational users.

### **Service Delivery Scoping Project**

- 65 The purpose of this project is to consider future Council service delivery options for communities in the Southland District with demand from residents, ratepayers and visitors being the primary focus.
- 66 Consultant Rebecca Mc Elrea has been engaged to undertake this process and has been working closely with staff to create an appropriate engagement strategy for the project which includes inviting the public to complete surveys, observations of demand for services in the Council offices and libraries around the district and conducting interviews with customer support staff and other Council staff. Once this part of the process is complete, drop-in sessions will be held around the District to discuss the findings and invite further feedback. This project will culminate in a report being presented to Council to discuss the future options for service delivery across the District.

### **2017/2018 Annual Plan**

- 67 The Annual Plan was adopted by Council at its meeting on 7 June and a copy of the final document is available from the Council's website and offices.
- 68 The final plan resulted in a District Rate increase of 3.63%. The actual rates changes for individual properties will differ depending on the services received, location, land-use and land value. The final Annual Plan document includes details of the different rates from page 67 as well as a table showing rates for a range of sample properties on pages 91 and 92.
- 69 The final plan forecasts a surplus of around \$1.4 million. In adopting the plan, Council also confirmed its fees and charges for the 2017/2018. An updated fees and charges schedule is also available from the Council's website and offices. Officer have sent replies letters to those who provided feedback on the Annual Plan letting them know Council's decisions on the matters they raised. Any feedback related to local Community Board or CDA projects have been forwarded on to these committees and their Community Partnership Leaders/Community Engineers to consider.

### **2018 - 2028 10 Year Plan**

- 70 Work is well underway on the programme of work related to the 2018 - 2028 10 Year Plan. This is the main activity planning and budgeting document for Council. It sets out what services and activities Council will provide, who will pay (and how) and how Council will measure its performance. The purpose of the plan is to:
- Describe the activities of Council
  - Describe the desired community outcomes (the outcome Council aims to achieve in meeting the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions)
  - Provide for integrated decision-making and co-ordination of resources

- Provide a basis for accountability
- Provide a long-term focus for decisions and activities
- Provide an opportunity for community participation in these decisions.

- 71 As the plan covers a ten year period (30 years for infrastructure-related assets), the process of preparing the plan is also about considering how the community (and therefore what the community needs from Council) may change in the future. This is then used to identify any key issues and decisions about Council's activities and services with any options identified and the community consulted before final decisions are made.
- 72 Officers have spent the past three months focussed on reviewing Activity Management Plans which underpin the thinking behind what is needed to be done over the next ten years for each key activity area. This has also involved preparing budgets for the next ten years and, as part of this, Council's Community Partnership Leaders have been talking to local Community Boards and CDA Subcommittees about any local projects for that period that they are considering which need to be allowed for in the budgets. Once this work is completed officers will review the financials and the ability to deliver on the work programme and discuss this with Council and local committees in the coming months.
- 73 Workshops are also planned with councillors over August, September and October to discuss the draft Activity Management Plans and budgets and get input into options being considered. An overview of the key stages of the process are shown in Work Plan below. Officers are working through the process and aim to have a draft of the documents prepared by the end of 2018 ready for audit in January 2018 with community consultation in March/April 2018.

### **Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Policy**

- 74 Later this year, Council staff will commence a review of the Stewart Island Rakiura Visitor Levy. This will include a thorough review of all parts of the Levy, including reviewing the Stewart Island Rakiura Visitor Levy Policy. As part of this work, Council will be engaging with people in the District to get community views on the Levy and how it should be used.

### **Venture Southland Community Development**

- 75 The Venture Southland Community Development team has been conducting an assessment of all facilities available for community use or hire across the District on behalf of Southland District Council. Over the past few months, the team have been in contact with facility managers and users in the Wallacetown area and have gained valuable feedback on what is available and community needs. We are very appreciative of the community's assistance with this process. The community consultation has now ended and the final report – with information that will hopefully be useful for facility planning to meet current and future needs by Council and the community - is due to be submitted to SDC at the end of August.

## **Environmental Services**

### **Resource Management Act Amendments**

- 76 Now that the Resource Management Act amendments have been enacted, staff are working through the implications of these. A report was presented to Council at its meeting on 21 June 2017 explaining the key changes.
- 77 It will be important to ensure that the Council's RMA delegations to staff accurately reflect the new provisions of the Act. A report seeking approval for consequential amendments to these



delegations is being developed. This is important to enable staff to give effect to new provisions such as streamlined processing times for simple consents.

- 78 The Ministry for the Environment presented a seminar on the new National Planning Templates under the amended legislation at ICC on 21 June 2017, which a number of staff attended, although these are in their early stages and the information provided was hence fairly general.

### **Earthquake Prone Amendments to the Building Act 2004**

- 79 As previously advised the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016 No. 22 have now taken effect from 1 July 2017.
- 80 Key elements of this can be briefly summarised as setting timeframes for assessing buildings identified as potentially earthquake prone, and timeframes for strengthening such identified buildings. The assessments are based on the risk zone within which they are located (Southland District contains High, Medium and Low zones), the use of the buildings and their potential for collapse on key thoroughfares.
- 81 Council's Team Leader Building Solutions Michael Marron and Senior Building Inspector Peter Meikle are developing an action plan for giving effect to these legislative amendments.

### **National Policy Statement for Fresh Water**

- 82 On 5 July a number of officers and elected representatives attended a briefing and interactive discussion on the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water from the Deputy Secretary for the Environment and other senior Ministry for the Environment staff, at Environment Southland. Officers also attended a focused session on the same topic earlier on the same day, which was more focused around discussing the implications of the delivery of this National Policy Statement for territorial authorities.

### **Building Control**

- 83 The issued consents for May 2017 are down by 17%. However, this is in the lower level consent processing category. New houses and house alterations are up slightly. Heating units are back significantly on the same period as last year. The value of consented work is up by 38% which would reflect the complexity of work associated with processing the consents.
- 84 There is a spike in the average cost of a new home up by 65% to \$219,512 and the cost per square metre has also increased 41% to \$223.66 on the same period as last year. The department also completed 414 inspections which is also a noted increase.
- 85 June has shown an increase on the number of consents issued for the same period last year. There is a noted rise in the number of consents issued for new dwellings up from 8 to 16. This represented an additional two to three days of consent processing time. The team also carried out 300+ inspections for the month.
- 86 The size and complexity of the houses issued this month appears to be predominantly simple in design and smaller in size, this type of dwelling is typically associated with a second home or a rental property more than a large retirement or dream home.
- 87 The consents issued this month will generate 414 inspections over the coming year if all work is completed in a 12 month period.
- 88 Overall, the 2016/2017 financial year has proven to be similar to last year in relation to the number of consents issued - only down by 4% however the value of work has increased by 4%. This is a reflection on the greater complexity of work being consented.

### **Dog Registrations**

- 89 Officers have been with dog registration renewals, with a number of queries being received concerning the new discount regime. Most dog registrations are expected to be processed by around August. Immediate benefits are expected to be high levels of compliance with the microchipping requirement, and in time a reduced rate of wandering dogs and dog nuisance.

### **Food Act**

- 90 All food businesses that were required to transfer to the new Food Act 2014 regime by 30 June 2017 have done so. The Ministry of Primary Industries has a transfer timetable in place and it is in three phases over a three year period ending in early 2019. The first large group of businesses, those with alcohol on-licences, have successfully transferred over. Officers are focussing on the next group of food businesses that are required to transfer by mid-2018, a group including food service businesses without on-licences (eg some cafés and restaurants).

### **Combined Local Alcohol Policy**

- 91 Gore District, Invercargill City, and Southland District Councils are starting discussions on the review of the Combined Local Alcohol Policy that is due next year. It was adopted in 2016 and its key content was setting hours of business for alcohol licences in the region. The other Southern Councils have yet to adopt a Local Alcohol Policy.

### **Rakiura Heritage Centre**

- 92 Resource consent was lodged on 1 March to construct a heritage centre at 6 Argyle Street, Oban. This application has been limited notified to adjoining residents and two submissions have been received in support. As no submissions were received in opposition a decision can be made under delegated authority without the need for a hearing. In late July the Rakiura Heritage Centre received a resource consent from Council.

### **Notice of Requirement (Edendale)**

- 93 The submission on the proposal to realign State Highway 1 closed on 11 May. A total of 18 submissions were received and an indicative timeframe for holding a hearing will be late August. An Independent Commissioner will hold the hearing and make a decision on the application.

### **District Plan Appeals**

- 94 The Environment Court mediation on the Proposed District Plan will be held between 8-11 August. All five appeals will be discussed with the aim of resolving these appeals without going to a court hearing, provided that can be achieved without compromising key environmental bottom lines.

### **Non-notified Resource Consents and Other RMA Items**

- 95 Resource consent application numbers being lodged with Council remain steady, with some moderate to large scale development, such as Golden Bush Mine, petrol stations, and a new Wrightson's store currently occurring or proposed in the District. Most consents are being processed within the statutory processing timeframes.

## Services and Assets

### Around the Mountains Cycle Trail - Business Case

- 96 Work is underway to look at how we might progress development of the business case looking at options for the completion of the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail.
- 97 The initial phase of the business case development will be an Investment Logic Mapping (ILM) workshop. This is a workshop through which we will work through a process to identify the key problem issues and identify the options and benefits.
- 98 The latter part of the process develops the costs and risks of each option and so allows for the full business case to be drafted. At this stage it is anticipated that the business case will be presented towards the end of the 2017 year.

### Around the Mountains Cycle Trail - MBIE Improvements Funding

- 99 The Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has been discussing with officers options for providing assistance to fund 'safety' improvements to the cycle trail on the section of road between Walter Peak and Mavora Lakes. They have proposed a scenario where because of safety concerns for cyclists being caught in bad weather the MBIE will find the full cost of the improvements. This will be subject to agreement with Council about future work and conditions around future funding requests. Discussions will progress with MBIE on this in the second week of July. A teleconference is set down for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

### Te Anau Airport - Manapouri

- 100 Runway works in the form of repair and maintenance is a subject that will addressed during the winter months with crack sealing commencing in the warmer summer months. This will ensure that we get the most out of the overlay seal on the older portion of the runway. Along with the crack sealing, runway markings will be renewed in portions of the runway effected by crack sealing and other areas that are becoming unserviceable.
- 101 The following statistics look over the last six years of operations and provides a steady level of overall growth in aircraft movements:
- Large Aircraft: On average, we get 49 movements during the summer season or just under 1.5 movements per week. In the peak months, we get up to three movements per week and in the shoulder seasons we get one. The percentage increase in aircraft movements over the six year period is approximately 10%.
  - Small Aircraft: On average, we get 246 movements during the summer season or just under seven movements per week. The season doesn't have many highs and low and is mainly constant due to proximity of training organisations in Dunedin and Invercargill, helicopter transit flights from Queenstown and two resident commercial transport operations. There is a slight decline in small aircraft movements this summer season of approximately 6%. This is due to commercial transport operators using larger aircraft which is reflected in a slightly higher revenue take relating to higher landing charges. Less private aircraft owners have additional discretionary income which has been reported by several small aerodromes adding to this decline.

### Forestry (IFS)

- 102 Harvesting continues with 40,000 tonnes harvested to the end of May. Log prices and yields continue to improve against budget, with a healthy net position forecast by year's end of \$2.9M.

### **Community Centres**

- 103 Edendale hall is on the market for disposal by way of a fixed price given that only one tender was received, which was significantly lower than the market analysis. No action taken yet on the disposal of the Hokonui hall. Menzies Ferry is in a similar situation, however work has commenced to survey out the local war memorial to be retained by Council, prior to starting the local community consultation about closing the hall.

### **Community Housing**

- 104 Occupancy still reasonably high across the district with the external painting project at Wyndham and Edendale completed.

### **Office Buildings**

- 105 Refurbishment has been completed for some rooms in the Invercargill office, as the final step of the reorganisation to allow teams to operate together rather than continue to be separated.

### **Public Conveniences**

- 106 Predominantly, business as usual when it comes to operations, however the budgets clearly show an increase in costs for those toilets situated on the main tourist routes. The upgrade project at Colac Bay has been deferred until the Foreshore Road access issues have been resolved.
- 107 A project is currently underway to identify Council facilities that have wash basins or taps connected to non-Council provided water supplies. Once identified then the appropriate signage about its use will be provided.

### **Water Structures**

- 108 Plans are underway to do some initial investigations of the Waiau River boat ramps to identify any urgent issues to be included in this Long Term Plan. A more detailed inspection will be undertaken prior to the next Long Term Plan.
- 109 Licence Agreements with private berth owners at Riverton is progressing with a majority signed and returned. The outstanding ones will be followed up.

### **Curio Bay Project**

- 110 Ongoing with Council's waste water project and Department of Conservation's carpark completed. The South Catlins Trust has the new camping amenities building operational as well as commencing construction on the new heritage building. An ancillary project has resulted from all this development and the three parties in conjunction with other interest groups, are involved in a planting programme on the reserve to increase the habitat for the Yellow Eyed Penguins.

### **Land and Water Plan Implementation**

- 111 Under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) water quality and quantity are to be maintained and improved, and any over allocation to be phased out over time. Environment Southland (ES) is required to set environmental limits by 2025, with all "communities" required to meet those limits in due course. They are progressing this work via their proposed Water and Land Plan.
- 112 To assist with addressing the impacts of these changes on local authority infrastructure ES have formed a 3 Waters Officer Working Group. The objectives of the Group are to work through the implications of the new freshwater standards, develop an agreed approach to the re-consenting of local authority infrastructure and ensure that the organisational objectives are aligned.

- 113 Council staff, consultants and legal counsel have now prepared evidence for presentation at a hearing in September where submissions on the proposed Water and Land Plan will be heard. Evidence has been prepared in conjunction with both Gore District and Invercargill City Councils given that the range of issues arising from the plan are likely to have an impact on each Territorial Local Authorities.

### **Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry**

- 114 The Government established an Inquiry into the issues relating to the contamination of the Havelock North Water Supply last year. The inquiry was originally due to report back to Government by 31 March 2017. The report back date has now been extended and split into two separate phases.
- 115 Stage 1 will address matters relating directly to the Havelock North water contamination incident and the response to that incident. It will include findings of fact and fault. Stage 1 findings were released in May. Key findings include:
- Contamination of drinking water was confirmed as the source of the outbreak
  - Contamination is understood to have arisen from inundation of neighbouring paddocks resulting in water from a pond entering the aquifer around 90m from the bore identified as the source
  - Failings on the part of both the District Council and Regional Council, although not directly responsible for the outbreak, were definitely a contributory factor
  - Lack of contingency planning by the District Council
  - Failure of technical advisers to adequately assess and report on security of the bore heads.
- 116 Water and Waste staff are currently working through understanding the implications of the findings in relation to the 12 community water supplies for which Council has responsibility.
- 117 Stage 2 will address the broader systemic issues and provide recommendations about managing water supply across New Zealand. It will examine the existing statutory and regulatory regimes involved in delivering drinking-water to see if improvements can be made. Stage 2 of the Inquiry is now due to be reported back by 8 December 2017.
- 118 The recommendations coming out of Stage 2 of the Inquiry are expected to be of significance for all local authorities.

### **Alternative Coastal Route Seal Extension Project**

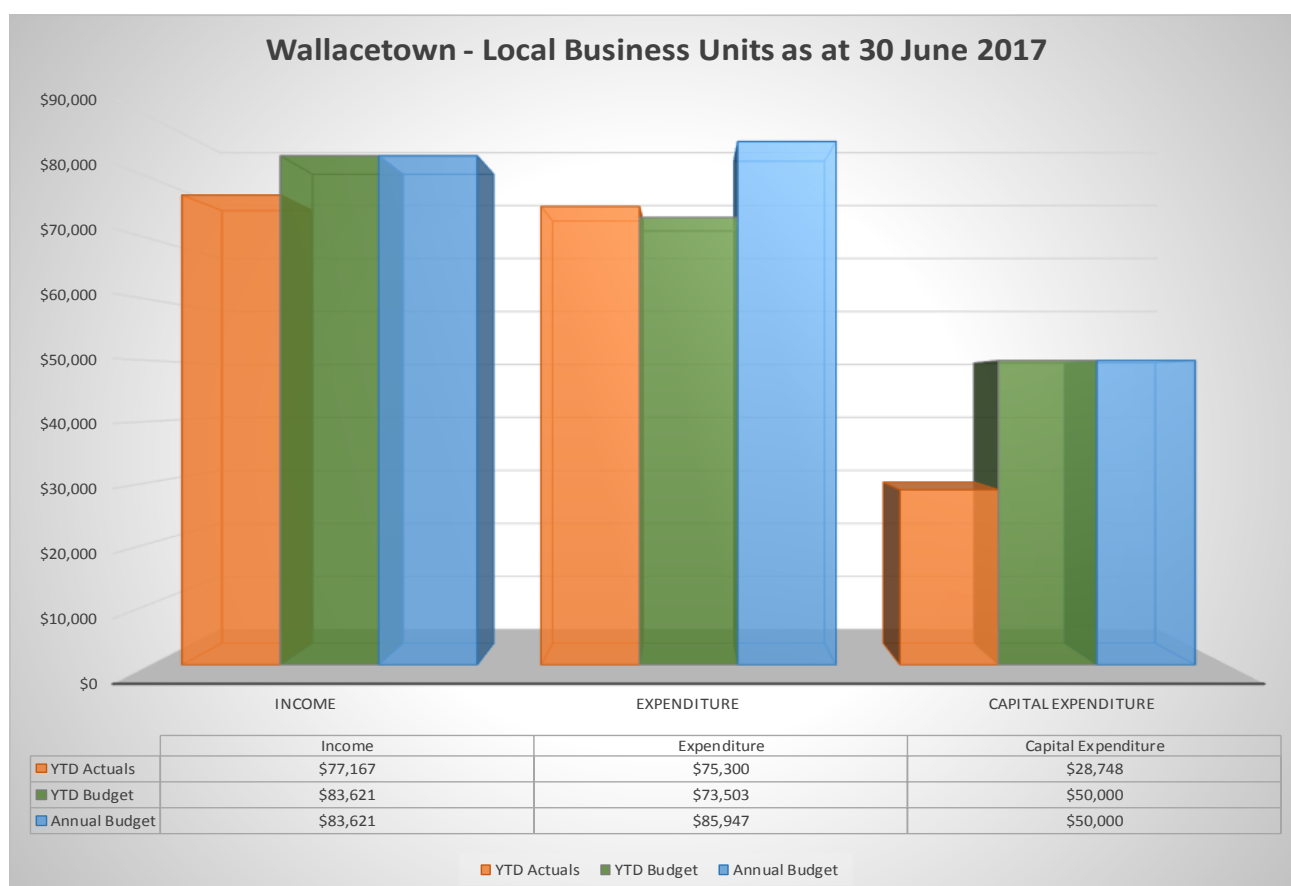
- 119 A sod-turning and blessing for the commencement of the Alternative Coastal Route Seal Extension Project was held in May.
- 120 There is a high level of 'enthusiasm' and support from the local community for the project, which is making it easier for the contractors undertaking the work.

### **District-Wide Resurfacing Contract**

- 121 The Services and Assets Committee have approved the release of tenders for two three-year road resurfacing contracts. The decision to combine the work into three year contracts was made to try and achieve better value for money and mitigate the 'peak and trough' variables which come from having single year contracts.

## Finance

- 122 Income for Wallacetown Community Board is on track and within expected levels. There is a small variance within the cemetery budget due to less than expected internments.
- 123 Expenditure is showing as under budget. The cemetery is currently overspent due to maintenance work to be funded from the Elvina Powell Bequest as approved by the Wallacetown Community Board. The expenditure variance in the operating costs is offset by the \$3,000 grant received for the painting of the RSA memorial gates.
- 124 The streetworks maintenance general budget is underspent. This is due to an allocation of general project funds that has yet to be identified by the Board.
- 125 Expenditure is underspent in beautification due to work identified not being required to be done outside of routine township maintenance, and general projects allocated funds not yet identified by the Board.
- 126 Capital expenditure is underspent due to the project at Dunlop and Delray Streets being completed at an amount below the allocated budget. Remaining funds will be reallocated to general reserves at the end of financial year.



| Wallacetown - Business Units as at 30 June 2017 |                                |            |            |                  |              |            |                  |            |            |                  |
|---|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
|   |                                | Income     |            |                  | Expenses     |            |                  | Capital    |            |                  |
| BU Code   | Business Unit                  | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Budget Full Year | Expenses YTD | Budget YTD | Budget Full Year | Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Budget Full Year |
| 29100   | Administration - Wallacetown   | \$8,360    | \$8,340    | \$8,340          | \$9,127      | \$8,340    | \$8,340          |            |            |                  |
| 29102   | Operating Costs - Wallacetown  | \$8,034    | \$11,696   | \$11,696         | \$7,145      | \$4,613    | \$4,613          |            |            |                  |
| 29107   | Street Works - Wallacetown     | \$10,908   | \$10,882   | \$10,882         | \$12,558     | \$10,125   | \$22,294         | \$28,748   | \$50,000   | \$50,000         |
| 29113   | Stormwater Drain - Wallacetown | \$6,697    | \$6,413    | \$6,413          | \$5,363      | \$6,410    | \$6,410          |            |            |                  |
| 29125   | Cemetery - Wallacetown         | \$14,851   | \$18,025   | \$18,025         | \$18,595     | \$15,750   | \$16,025         |            |            |                  |
| 29128   | Beautification - Wallacetown   | \$20,968   | \$20,934   | \$20,934         | \$15,679     | \$20,934   | \$20,934         |            |            |                  |
| 29132   | Ellerslie Square               | \$4,266    | \$4,256    | \$4,256          | \$4,242      | \$4,256    | \$4,256          |            |            |                  |
| 29146   | Playground - Ailsa Street      | \$3,082    | \$3,075    | \$3,075          | \$2,590      | \$3,075    | \$3,075          |            |            |                  |
| Total   |                                | \$77,167   | \$83,621   | \$83,621         | \$75,300     | \$73,503   | \$85,947         | \$28,748   | \$50,000   | \$50,000         |

## Reserve Balances - Annual Plan

| Wallacetown                              | Opening Balance | Current Budget | Forecast Budget | 2017/2018      | 2018/2019      | 2019/2020      | 2020/2021      | 2021/2022      | 2022/2023      | 2023/2024      | 2024/2025      | 2025/2026      | 2026/2027      |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Local</b>                             |                 |                |                 |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| <i>Reserve</i>                           |                 |                |                 |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Wallacetown Cemetery Bequest             | 71,310          | 73,585         | 73,585          | 73,721         | 75,858         | 78,085         | 78,068         | 80,388         | 82,805         | 82,749         | 85,265         | 85,265         | 85,265         |
| Wallacetown General - RES                | 199,896         | 171,979        | 146,979         | 154,110        | 161,799        | 169,810        | 178,157        | 186,854        | 195,915        | 205,366        | 215,192        | 215,192        | 215,192        |
| <b>Total Local Reserve</b>               | <b>271,206</b>  | <b>245,564</b> | <b>220,564</b>  | <b>227,831</b> | <b>237,657</b> | <b>247,895</b> | <b>256,225</b> | <b>267,242</b> | <b>278,720</b> | <b>288,105</b> | <b>300,457</b> | <b>300,457</b> | <b>300,457</b> |
| <b>Total Local Balance</b>               | <b>271,206</b>  | <b>245,564</b> | <b>220,564</b>  | <b>227,831</b> | <b>237,657</b> | <b>247,895</b> | <b>256,225</b> | <b>267,242</b> | <b>278,720</b> | <b>288,105</b> | <b>300,457</b> | <b>300,457</b> | <b>300,457</b> |
| <b>Stormwater</b>                        |                 |                |                 |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| <i>Operating</i>                         |                 |                |                 |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Wallacetown Stormwater - OPR             | 40,063          | 40,066         | 40,066          | 40,069         | 40,072         | 40,076         | 40,080         | 40,084         | 40,088         | 40,092         | 40,096         | 40,096         | 40,096         |
| <b>Total Stormwater Operating</b>        | <b>40,063</b>   | <b>40,066</b>  | <b>40,066</b>   | <b>40,069</b>  | <b>40,072</b>  | <b>40,076</b>  | <b>40,080</b>  | <b>40,084</b>  | <b>40,088</b>  | <b>40,092</b>  | <b>40,096</b>  | <b>40,096</b>  | <b>40,096</b>  |
| <b>Total Stormwater Balance</b>          | <b>40,063</b>   | <b>40,066</b>  | <b>40,066</b>   | <b>40,069</b>  | <b>40,072</b>  | <b>40,076</b>  | <b>40,080</b>  | <b>40,084</b>  | <b>40,088</b>  | <b>40,092</b>  | <b>40,096</b>  | <b>40,096</b>  | <b>40,096</b>  |
| <b>Total Wallacetown Reserve Balance</b> | <b>311,269</b>  | <b>285,630</b> | <b>260,630</b>  | <b>267,900</b> | <b>277,729</b> | <b>287,971</b> | <b>296,305</b> | <b>307,326</b> | <b>318,808</b> | <b>328,197</b> | <b>340,553</b> | <b>340,553</b> | <b>340,553</b> |

## Recommendation

That the Wallacetown Community Board:

- a) Receives the report titled “Council Report” dated 11 August 2017.

## Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.





## Report Back on Attendance at the New Zealand Community Boards Conference - 12 to 13 May 2017

Record No: R/17/7/15633

Author: Fiona Dunlop, Committee Advisor

Approved by: Rex Capil, Group Manager Community and Futures

☐ Decision

☐ Recommendation

☒ Information

### Purpose of Report

- 1 Attached is a report from Rae Wilson who attended the New Zealand Community Boards Conference held in Methven on 12 and 13 May 2017.

### Recommendation

That the Wallacetown Community Board:

- a) Receives the report titled "Report Back on Attendance at the New Zealand Community Boards Conference - 12 to 13 May 2017" dated 11 July 2017.

### Attachments

- A Rae Wilson Report Back [↓](#)

# REPORT

To: **Southland District Council.**

From: **Rae Wilson.**

Subject: **New Zealand Community Boards Conference 2017.**

Conference Title: **Making 1+1 = 3 (or doing more with less).**

Dates: **11 to 13 May 2017.**

Venue: **The Heritage Centre, Methven.**

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## Introduction.

This was the second Community Boards Conference that I have been fortunate enough to attend. The first was two years ago in the Bay of Islands and I considered that conference to be very worthwhile for me. There were many additional activities associated with that conference that this one lacked. The lack of additional activities is the only negative (minor) of the conference.

The conference itself was of a very high standard. The speakers were excellent and workshops were supportive and helpful.

## Day 0.

**Fonterra** was one of the conference sponsors and as part of the transport from Christchurch airport to Methven, there was a tour of the Darfield milk powder plant.

As we travelled by car, we met the rest of the tour group at the plant. We were greeted at the door by three staff members, provided with a substantial finger lunch and coffee, followed by an OSH introduction, and issued with safety equipment.

There was a presentation of information about Fonterra as a company, its aims and objectives and then a description of milk powder production and the Darfield plant. As a result of questions from the floor, there was some in depth discussion about a number of issues like roading, environmental issues, marketing etc. The staff willingly and ably fielded all the questions without any apparent avoidance of issues.

This was followed by a tour of the plant where we saw perhaps three people on the floor. The rest were in control rooms only. Everything was automated with robotic forklifts taking the product to storage. Loading of containers was the only area where we saw forklifts being driven.

## Registration and the Welcome Function.

The welcome function was more about 'meet and greet' other attendees than it was about formalities. In this respect it was very successful.

Southland was well represented at this conference.

- Two from Southland District (one from the Wallacetown Community Board and one from the Te Anau Community Board)
- Three from Invercargill City (all from the Bluff Community Board),
- Two from Gore District (the Mayor and the chairman of the Maitua Community Board).

I was surprised by the number of Mayors in attendance at this conference.

## Day 1.

The conference started with the usual Welcome Ceremony and addresses. The MC for the conference proved to be quite entertaining with his one-line thoughts.

**David Rutherford** was the first Speaker of the day with the subject, **adequate housing: Sustainable development and the new urban agenda.**

There were many messages in David's address. The thing that struck most of us was how passionate and emotional he was about his job and his responsibilities as **Chief Human Rights Commissioner** in New Zealand. An interesting point made was to **not use percentages** but rather **count people**. I couldn't help feeling how that relates to the Southland district Council's motto of **People First** and how we need to not lose sight of the basics.

One of his quotes (which he stated twice) was;

In March this year, on Commonwealth Day, Her Majesty reminded us of how peace and justice are built. She said:

"The cornerstones on which peace is founded are, quite simply, respect and understanding for one another. Working together, we build peace by defending the dignity of every individual and community. By upholding justice and the rule of law, and by striving for societies that are fair and offer opportunities for all, we overcome division and find reconciliation, so that the benefits of progress and prosperity may be multiplied and shared".

Her Majesty's words are directly relevant to the work of community boards in New Zealand. Community boards have a critical role in building respect and understanding and in defending the dignity of every individual and community.

The transcript of David's address is available online at <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/David-Rutherford.pdf>. I consider it recommended reading for everyone involved in local government (staff and elected representatives). I know you won't get quite message we got because you won't be hearing it with the passion we heard. The point that the home is the major Health Care Centre in the country is still to be fully realised.

**Sam Johnson** of Christchurch's Student Volunteer Army fame addressed us next. While he is a very dynamic and enthusiastic speaker I didn't take a lot away from the session. Again it was about people in their time of needs and the development of an SVA guide to help teachers. We also promoted the WeVisit website that matches young people to older people to help them learn. These two items were directed at people in the age group of 15 to 25. I still tend to treat people over 18 as being grown up I'm afraid whereas the message I was getting at the conference was that people under 40 are the young people.

**Hon Jacqui Dean** update from the Associate Minister of Local Government.

This address was rather shorter than I expected dealing with the issues of;

- Freedom camping,
- Dog control,
- Local Government Amendment Bill,
- Better Local Services Bill.

Jacqui has very strong feelings about local government coming from a background in local government. One comment she made was very important to my own views and that was that the focus will be on service delivery not on representation. That will significantly change the Representation Review for all councils. There are 46 Territorial Authorities involved in representation reviews in 2018, SDC being one of those.

**Eyal Halamish** whose topic was **How to think like an entrepreneur**.

Eyal is quite a character with a significant background in political activism and lobbying. He is CEO of OurSay. This is an organisation which helps leaders level with the community with easy to use technologies. OurSay streamlines online engagement. Design, setup, and share engagement projects with the easy-to-use platform. Gather valuable data from the dashboard to optimise engagement, learn from community feedback, and gain insight for decision making. It is suitable for urban, community and strategic planning, public consultation, community priorities, budget allocation, policy development engagements and more.

Catchphrases were an integral part of this address but I have difficulty with the how.

Later in the conference he offered everyone access to use this site. I left my contact details with this in mind but as yet have not had any contact.

**Malcolm Alexander** CEO of Local Government New Zealand spoke about **LGNZ Big-Ticket Projects**.

Malcolm covered many items including the three waters and climate change. He also spoke about assessing councils and the four big items are;

1. leadership and governments
2. finance
3. doing everything well
4. engagement.

One point he covered very well was that of assess, change, assess and that all too often these are done too quickly without time to see an effect before further changes are made. In other words too much attention being paid to assessment and change. His analogy was 'you can weigh the pig so often that you forget to feed it'. It was an interesting address, from a very articulate gentleman.

The take home quote was; "If you never want to be criticized, for goodness' sake don't do anything new."

**Peter Biggs****Connecting with communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

I found this to be a bit of a challenge regarding online and off-line communities and the role of local government in those. To my mind these discussions get confused with the now familiar catch cries.

There's a business case for local government playing a role in building social networks in communities.

More resilient communities with less crime cost less in the long run – so, they're worth investing in.

He was suggesting that local government should play two roles:

1. Promote ways for people to get to know each other in the community
2. Provide communities with local amenities.

The full transcript of his address can be found at <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Peter-Biggs.pdf>.

**Community Board Zone Meetings**

I was surprised by the number of attendees at the zone 6 (south of the Waitaki river) meeting. There was some really good discussion about issues affecting different Boards but the alarming thing was the large number who were dissatisfied with their parent council and/or their council's staff. Coming from a background of both staff member and Community Board member, it alarms me greatly that a number of

parent councils and their staff are not listening to their Community Boards who are really one of the main groups in Community Consultation and Collaboration.

One of the outstanding messages from the conference was that of community consultation in the decision-making process and collaboration with Community Boards.

Suggestions were made about a zone meeting to be held in the spring in a central location to make travel a little easier on everyone from the extreme ends of the zone.

### **Darren Keenan & Ray Tye**

#### **Organisational + Engagement = Great Outcomes.**

This was one of the workshops that I chose to attend. It was run by iap<sup>2</sup> (International Association for Public Participation).

This was basically around the theme of consultation and collaboration with the community. There are many catchphrases not the least of which was 'if you can't engage well internally you will have difficulty engaging externally'. There was considerable emphasis on Inform versus Consult and devolution (or evolution if you wish) to the process of;

- Involve
- Collaborate
- Empower.

The whole thing should amount to the process of Evolution, not Revolution or Reorganisation. Too often we become hell-bent on reorganisation when a process of slow and steady evolution is a better approach. In other words; small changes are easier to accept and the net result is the same.

The question was asked; what is our history of engagement? The research shows that at best it is poor, judging by the lack of responses received.

Feel free to explore the website <http://www.iap2.org/?page=training>.

This session echoed a lot of my own sentiment. And so ended day 1.

## Day 2

Day 2 started with an address from the NZ CBC Chair, **Mr Mick Lester**.

As always, Mick had a lot to offer. Included at this stage was a presentation of long service certificates to 10 conference attendees. I was one of those. In fact there were Certificates for 3 Members of Community Boards in the Southland District Council area. They were;

- Frank Shearing (Wallacetown Community Board)
- Rae Wilson (Wallacetown Community Board)
- John McHugh (Winton Community Board).

The presentations were made early in the day as some of those receiving certificates were departing at lunchtime.

**David Hammond.** Some of you may recognise the name. He is a past employee of Southland District Council and former CEO of Thames Coromandel District Council. His subject title was **Nothing less than equal**.

The transcript of David's address is available here

<http://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/David-Hammond2.pdf>

Again some of the catchphrases are very dear to my heart. E.g.

- Put local back into councils
- Partner councils not top-down councils
- Conversation of equals
- Negotiate charter including relationship with council staff.

I think this extract from David's address sums it up well.

Mapping a new agenda for NZ Boards:

It is my view that to be effective community leadership, future Boards must:

1. Define their primary role as leading local place-shaping of communities (the development of community and its facilities and amenities)
2. Become equal partners (with different roles) with their elected Council
3. Clarify roles and give mutual respect; Boards lead local and District/City elected members lead the District/City scale issues. Both allow each other to lead
4. Develop a relationship with their council underpinned by a Conversations of Equals, formalised in a Board Charter at the end of that conversation
5. Deliver benefits locally in growing community resilience, cost-efficiencies and higher satisfaction with communities that their Boards reflect them

David addressed us with the Coromandel experience at the last conference and his address was well received at this conference also. He is very enthusiastic and worth listening to. I think he has taken the Southland development of community boards to the next level and we would do well to listen before we are overtaken by others round the country.

**Janie Annear Local Government Commissioner** was to address is with the subject **How the Local Government Commission can affect you.**

Unfortunately Janie could not be there for family reasons and was represented by Donald Riezebos who I believe was a past CEO of the Local Government Commission and is now a consultant to the Commission.

His main comments centred around the representation review with advice to take this seriously and urging attendance at the Representation Review Forum to be held in Wellington on 23 June. The main message I got was 'you will only get what you have the courage to ask for'.

#### **Update from the LGNZ President (Don Cameron).**

Don started by reading an address from Lawrence Yule who was unable to attend because of more pressing business in his home district.

He followed on with his own views of community board participation in the Ruapehu District. I quote his closing comment.

'Councils need to work hard and have the confidence to give community boards and their representatives the real influence in shaping the future for their communities that they deserve.'

The complete transcript of his address is available at <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/assets/Uploads/Don-Cameron-on-behalf-of-Lawrence-Yule.pdf>

#### **Workshop Responding to Community feedback.**

##### **Eyal Halamish**

This was the true workshop style of sharing ideas but at the same time giving some solutions and acknowledging that sometimes there aren't solutions and require some local initiative and inventiveness.

Some tools were offered but I have yet to assess those.

##### **Nick Williams' address was entitled Using civic technology and geo-design in community engagement.**

This was an interesting one to finish the conference. Again it was on the theme of community engagement, consultation and collaboration with an emphasis on the risk of engagement. It took the old concept of the risk communication being hazard a step further and incorporating the public perception (outrage).

He also talked about using the oursay.org website to achieve the objectives.



The main thrust was about how to be more effective in managing outrage (public perception). Learn to say no respectfully with alternatives if possible.

This was the end of day 2 and the conference.

### **My summary**

It was a shame that with the conference being so close to home that there were only two representatives from Southland District Council. There would be really good value for the community boards of the district if more representatives attended these conferences.

Two things stood out for me;

1. The serious misgivings and dissatisfaction amongst a number of Boards with the relationship between their parent Councils' and more particularly the Councils' staff
2. The obvious theme of the conference was round collaboration and community consultation. It appears obvious that someone in the organisation is very aware of shortcomings in this area at both Council and Community Board levels.

The next conference is in 2019 at a north island venue yet to be decided.

I think there is a really good case to be made for hosting the 2021 Community Boards Conference in Invercargill. It would give us a wonderful opportunity to showcase Southland to the rest of the councils in the country. It's not as if The Southland District Council would be doing it all alone in my view. We could work with both the Invercargill City Council and the Gore District Council. The timing works well with the Bluff Oyster Festival but it does not have to be exactly this time of year in a case could be made for holding it adjacent to Easter so that we can showcase the area by having extended functions to the likes of Milford, Catlins, etc. before, during and after the conference. There would also be great opportunities for partners to visit many of our sites during the conference. The only commitment by the hosts would be a \$5000 seeding fund. That is matched with another \$5000 from LGNZ who make all the arrangements from there on. No doubt it will not be quite that simple but I'm sure we could cope and the benefits would be good for Southland as a whole.