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**REPORT 1**  
*(1215/11/IM)*

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**CLIMATE CHANGE AND GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE  
– ‘CRITICAL ISSUES FOR NEW ZEALAND AND THE  
PACIFIC’, WELLINGTON, 28 AND 29 MARCH 2006**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

To provide information on and to seek approval for Councillor Celia Wade-Brown, as Council’s environment portfolio leader, to attend the Climate Change and Governance Conference – ‘Critical Issues for New Zealand and the Pacific; to be held in Wellington on 28 and 29 March 2006.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of Councillor Celia Wade-Brown, as Council’s environment portfolio leader, to attend the Climate Change and Governance Conference – ‘Critical Issues for New Zealand and the Pacific’ to be held in Wellington on 28 and 29 March 2006, and that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members Budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Note that there is an agenda meeting for the Strategy and Policy Committee Meetings of 13 and 20 April scheduled on Tuesday 28 March 2006.*
4. *Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

**3. Discussion**

Climate change is one of the most urgent challenges facing the world community, with serious economic, social, and environmental consequences. There is little debate as to whether climate change is occurring, with the debate having shifted primarily to how society can mitigate and adapt to climate disruption. While the issue is international, the ramifications for New Zealand as a coastal nation vulnerable to sea level rise and other weather changes are particularly significant.

The Climate Change and Governance Conference, sponsored by Victoria University’s Institute of Policy Studies and School of Earth Sciences, is a high-profile international event taking place at the symbolic heart of our nation (Te Papa Tongarewa) and features distinguished speakers including:

- **British Prime Minister the Rt Hon Tony Blair (via live video link)**
- **Lord Ron Oxburgh** - distinguished British geologist and former Chairman of Shell
- **Professor Ronald Prinn** - Co-Director, MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, USA
- **Dr Kevin Trenberth** - Head of the Climate Analysis Section, US National Centre for Atmospheric Research, Colorado, USA

The topics include:

- The pace and nature of change
- Assessing the risks
- How and why do climate impacts matter?
- New Zealand and the Pacific
- Report back and synthesis
- Framing and policy context
- Opportunities for climate policy action
- Energy future in a carbon-constrained world
- New Zealand: the way forward

The Council's participation in Communities for Climate Protection (CCP-NZ) is an indicator of its belief that local government can and should be involved in climate change issues. Councillor Wade-Brown, as environment portfolio leader, has guided the development of our carbon inventory and carbon reduction goals as part of CCP-NZ. Her attendance at this conference, along with a supporting officer, would contribute both to the learnings of the conference and more effective CCP-NZ involvement.

For a full list of speakers and topics covered, see attached pages.

### **3.1 Considerations**

When deciding whether Councillor Celia Wade-Brown should attend this conference, consideration should be given to:

- the cost; and
- the impact of attendance on the budget; and
- the other conferences elected members may wish to attend later in the financial year.

The total cost if one elected member is appointed is expected to be NZ\$375.00 and will be met from the conference budget.

The cost of attendance is broken down as follows:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (\$NZD)</b>
Registration	\$375.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$375.00</b>

The impact on the budget of Councillor Celia Wade-Brown attending this conference is outlined in Table One.

**Table One:**

	2005/2006 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees, accommodation and travel	<b>\$34,000</b>	\$24,186.73	\$9,813.27
Impact of sending <u>one</u> elected member to the conference	\$375.00	\$24,561.73	\$9,438.27

#### 4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether Council should approve the attendance of Councillor Celia Wade-Brown at the Climate Change and Governance Conference – ‘Critical Issues for New Zealand and the Pacific; to be held in Wellington on 28 and 29 March 2006.

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- 1. The attendance of 1 Councillor at the National Housing Conference at a cost of \$2823.00
  - The attendance of two Councillors at the New Zealand Cycling Conference at a cost of \$500
  - The attendance of 8 Councillors at the Urbanism Down Under conference at a cost of \$3500.00
  - The attendance of 2 Councillors at the TRAFINZ conference at a cost of \$1380.00
  - The attendance of 4 Councillors at the Local Government New Zealand conference at a cost of \$7980.00
  - The attendance of 2 Councillors at the NZ Recreation Conference at a cost of \$1687.50
  - The attendance of 1 Councillor at the UNESCO Combating Racism Conference in Bangkok, Thailand at a cost of \$3891.94
  - The attendance of 1 Councillor at the NZ Planning Institute Conference, in Australia \$2424.29