

REPORT 7

(1215/52/IM, 1260/04/N4/IM)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE,
CHRISTCHURCH, 26-29 JULY 2009**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on the *Local Government New Zealand Conference* (**‘Local Government: our place in the world’**), to be held in Christchurch from 26-29 July 2009, and to seek approval for the Mayor and up to three additional elected members to attend the conference.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of the Mayor and up to three additional elected members at the Local Government New Zealand Conference to be held in Christchurch from 26-29 July 2009 and that the costs associated in attending the conference be met from the Elected Members’ budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Note that Wellington City Council can appoint up to four delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 29 July 2009.*
4. *Recommend to Council that it appoint the following delegates to attend the Local Government New Zealand AGM to be held on Wednesday 29 July 2009:*
 - (a) *Mayor Prendergast as its presiding delegate, with authority to exercise Wellington City Council’s six votes;*
 - (b) *an alternate presiding delegate (in the event that the Mayor is absent from the floor of the meeting at any time), who shall be a Councillor; and*
 - (c) *two other delegates, who shall be Councillors.*
5. *Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee Agenda meeting on Tuesday 28 July 2009.*

6. *Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy.*

3. Discussion

The theme for the 2009 conference is 'Local Government: our place in the world' and reflects local government's changing external environment. The topics the speakers will cover are:

- how local government can respond to the current economic climate
- what local government needs to know about current regulatory changes
- how local government can address the major social issues affecting communities.

Participants will also be informed about the latest legislative and policy developments affecting local government.

The keynote speakers include:

Judge Andrew Becroft – Appointed Principal Youth Court Judge of New Zealand in 2001. Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and educated at Rongotai College, Judge Becroft graduated from Auckland University in 1981 with a BA/LLB (Hons) degree. He practised in Auckland and in 1986 assisted with the establishment of the Mangere Community Law Centre where he worked as the Centre's senior solicitor until 1993. He then worked as a criminal barrister in South Auckland until his appointment to the Wanganui District Court in 1996. Judge Becroft is a former council member of the Auckland District Law Society and the New Zealand Law Society. He is a current editor of the LexisNexis publication Transport Law.

Peter Biggs – Managing Director of Clemenger BBDO in Melbourne, winner of the B&T Agency of the Year for Victoria in 2007 and 2008 and Campaign Brief Agency of the Year in 2008. Before taking up his appointment in Melbourne in March 2006, he was Managing Director of Clemenger BBDO in Wellington, New Zealand. During his time at Clemenger BBDO/Wellington, the agency was New Zealand Agency of the Year in 2002 and 2004, and he was chosen as Agency Chief Executive of the Year in 2003 and Wellingtonian of the Year also in 2003. He is a member of the Board of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Chunky Move Dance Company and the Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas. He is a sought after speaker on branding, marketing, creativity and leadership.

Mai Chen – Founding partner of Chen Palmer, New Zealand Public Law Specialists, Barristers and Solicitors, Australasia's first public law specialist firm, which she co-founded in 1994. Chen Palmer was voted best New Zealand Public Law Firm in the New Zealand Law Awards and runner-up in the best Boutique Law Firm category in 2007 and again in 2008. Mai has particular expertise in constitutional and administrative law, judicial review, regulatory issues, public policy and legislative solutions.

Mai has a First Class Law Honours degree from Otago University, a Masters degree from Harvard Law School, is a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management and an Honorary Associate of Auckland University of Technology.

Hon Peter Salmon – Chair of the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance. Hon Peter Salmon is a retired High Court Judge who is currently an arbitrator and mediator and sits on the Pacific Island Courts of Appeal. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he had extensive experience in Local Government, Environmental and Resource Management Law. He practised as a barrister for 22 years and was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1983. He was a founding member and the first President of the Resource Management Law Association. Currently he is the General Editor of the Annotated Resource Management Act and he has completed, with two commissioners, a review of the Draft National Policy Statement on Electricity Reticulation.

The Prime Minister, the Hon John Key will officially open the conference on Monday 27 July 2009.

Workshops will include:

Monday 27 July (Stream One) - 1.30pm – 3pm

- World economy – challenges and opportunities
- Local democracy: an endangered species?
- Treaty settlements – ensuring effective co-management
- Climate change: you might need more than a raincoat

Tuesday 28 July (Stream 2) – 1.15pm – 2.45pm

- RMA policy statements and plans – what we have learnt, where are we heading?
- Rugby World Cup 2011 – ensuring a legacy
- Alcohol in our communities: are we past the tipping point?
- Using your community boards for added value

A copy of the full programme is attached as Appendix 1.

The Chief Executive and other senior officers will also be attending the conference.

3.1 Appointment of delegates to the conference

There is no restriction on the number of delegates Council can send to the conference.

The Council’s elected member representatives at this conference over the last five years have been:

2004	Auckland	The Mayor and Councillors Best, Major and Piper
2005	Christchurch	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Armstrong and Wade-Brown
2006	Wellington	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, McKinnon and Shaw and Ngaire Best (Tawa Community Board)
2007	Dunedin	The Mayor and Ngaire Best (Tawa Community Board)
2008	Rotorua	The Mayor and Councillors Ahipene-Mercer, Best and McKinnon

The Mayor and Councillors Best and McKinnon are the Council's current representatives on *Local Government New Zealand Zone 4*.

3.2 Appointment of Delegates to the AGM

The Rules of *Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)* allow the Council to appoint up to four delegates to attend the AGM.

To enable a Council to exercise its voting rights at the AGM the *LGNZ* Rules require a member authority to:

“appoint one of its delegates as its presiding delegate and may appoint one or more alternate delegates; provided that the number of alternate delegates does not exceed the number of delegates appointed.”

Member authorities are required to advise the Chief Executive of *LGNZ*, in writing, of the names and positions of the presiding, alternate and other delegates attending the AGM. This allows *LGNZ* to closely monitor the numbers attending and so meet their obligations under the rules of their constitution.

Other elected members may attend the meeting as observers but have no speaking or voting rights and will be seated away from the Council's official delegation.

Wellington City Council is entitled to six (6) votes at the AGM and these votes are cast by the presiding delegate.

3.3 Considerations

When deciding whether elected members 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 cost of attendance per delegate is detailed as follows:

Item	Cost (GST inc)
Registration	\$1,145.00
Return Airfares	\$500.00
Accommodation	\$475.00
Total	\$2,120.00

The total cost of attendance for four elected members would be \$8,480 and the impact on the budget would be as follows:

	2009/2010 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees, accommodation and travel	\$39,500	\$1,450.75 ¹	\$38,049.25
Impact of sending four elected members to the conference	\$8,480	\$9,930.75	\$29,569.25

The costs incurred will be met from the elected members' conference budget (GVEMO1).

4. Conclusion

The Council is required to both appoint its delegates to the 2009 *LGNZ* conference to be held in Christchurch from 26-29 July 2009 and its presiding and alternate presiding delegate for the *LGNZ* Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 29 July 2009.

Contact Officer: *Ross Bly, Special Projects Officer, Democratic Services*

¹ The attendance of 1 Elected Member at the Trafanz Conference in September 2009 at a cost of \$1,450.75

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports long-term outcome 7.2.2 – “Wellington will operate an open and honest decision-making process that generates confidence and trust in the democratic system”.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Relates to C534: Elections, Governance and Democratic Process.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Not required.

b) Consultation with Maori

Not required.

6) Legal Implications

Nil.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy.