
REPORT 6
(1215/52/IM)

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LAW ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE 2010, CHRISTCHURCH,
30 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER 2010**

1. Purpose of Report

To provide information on and to seek approval for one elected member to attend the 'Resource Management Law Association Conference' to be held at the Christchurch Convention Centre in Christchurch on 30 September – 2 October 2010.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the attendance of one elected member at the Resource Management Law Association Conference to be held in Christchurch from 30 September – 2 October 2010 and agree that the costs associated with attending the conference be met from the Elected Members' budget (GVEM01).*
3. *Agree that should the nominated elected member(s) be unable to attend, they may select another elected member to attend in their place.*
4. *Note that there are no Council, committee, subcommittee or community board meetings currently scheduled for the period of the conference.*
5. *Note that a report back on the conference will be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee in accordance with Council policy in the new triennium.*

3. Discussion

The Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand Incorporated (RMLA) was established in 1992 to provide a forum for professionals and others with an interest in resource management and the environment. The Association's objectives are:

- An understanding of resource management law and its implementation in a multi-disciplinary framework;
- Excellence in resource management policy and practice; and,
- Resource management processes which are legally sound, effective and efficient, and which produce high quality environmental outcomes.

The Association hosts regular seminars on items of topical interest and other events around the country. Its Annual Conference is regularly attended by representatives from Wellington City Council.

This year's Annual Conference is entitled '*Sustainable Water Management, Are We There Yet?*' The conference programme is focused on managing the water resources in an environment of competing demands for water's cultural, recreational, aesthetic and economic values. The conference will draw on the lessons of unprecedented demand for water through agricultural use, electricity generation and for economic development.

Guest speakers include: Professor Patricia Wouters, Professor of International Water Law and Director of the Dundee UNESCO Centre for Water Law; the Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Climate Change Issues; Former Judge David Sheppard of the New Zealand Planning Tribunal and Environment Court; David Caygill, Deputy Chair of the Environment Canterbury Commissioners; Peter Neilson, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development; and, Jacinta Ruru, Coordinator of the Research Cluster for Natural Resources Law at the University of Otago.

The conference programme is attached as **Appendix One**.

3.1 Future Conferences

There are no further conferences scheduled for the 2007 – 10 triennium. Funding for the conference will impact on the budget for conferences for the remainder of the 2010/11 financial year. Council Officers are currently compiling a list of prospective conferences for consideration by the incoming Council.

3.2 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 per person
Return Flights (approximately)	\$362.00
Accommodation (approximately)	\$280.00
Registration	\$990.00
Total	\$1,632.00

The total cost of attendance for one elected member to attend the conference will be approximately \$1,632.00 and the impact on the budget will be as follows:

	2010/2011 Budget	Year to Date Expenditure	Unexpended Funds
Total budget for conference fees	\$39,500	\$4,677.89 ¹	\$34,822.11
Impact of sending one elected member to the conference	\$1,632.00	\$6,309.89	\$33,190.11

The costs incurred will be met from the elected members' conference budget (GVEM01).

4. Conclusion

A decision is required as to whether the Committee should approve the attendance of one Elected Member at the 'Resource Management Law Association Conference' 2010 to be held in Christchurch on 30 September – 2 October 2010.

Contact Officer: *Natalie Jacobson, Team Leader – Meeting Support*

¹ The attendance of one councillor to the 2010 Trafanz Conference at a cost of \$945
 The attendance of one councillor to the 2010 Walking Conference at a cost of \$551.25
 The attendance of one councillor to the Towns and Cities NZ conference, subject to Committee approval, \$700
 Incidental costs incurred for four councillors to the 2010 LGNZ conference, subject to change, at a cost of \$2481.64.

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports Outcome 7.2.B – More actively engaged: 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.