

# Waitaki District Council Memorandum

From Chief Executive

Date 25 October 2017

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## Chief Executive's Report

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### Recommendation

1. That Council receives the information.

### Purpose

The following comments are provided to bring Councillors up-to-date with issues that have arisen since the last Council meeting on 13 September 2017.

#### 1. Leadership

Firstly, I would like to thank the Mayor and Councillors for their faith in me in appointing me to the role of Chief Executive of Waitaki District Council. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of former Chief Executive Michael Ross, which has meant that I commence my role with the organisation in sound condition, financially strong, and in good heart. In like manner, I also particularly wish to acknowledge the excellent stewardship of Neil Jorgensen, GM Assets, in undertaking the role of Acting Chief Executive prior to my arrival.

I am immensely impressed with the passion, dedication and professionalism of all of the staff that I have met over the past four weeks, and as a result I am confident that Council will continue to improve customer service, maximise value to the ratepayer, and leverage opportunities through a *One Team* approach.



My partner Tri has asked me to convey her heartfelt thanks for the warmth of our welcome in our district.

This being my first month in the role, a great deal of time has necessarily been devoted to familiarisation with key stakeholders in the district, and with the structure and workings of council. There are many more key stakeholders to meet, and so this process of 'familiarisation' will continue over the next two months or so.

## 2. Governance

I have commenced a series of one-on-one meetings with each of the elected members, and this process continues.

## 3. Structural Realignment

There has been an interim group structure in place for almost 12 months, and whilst it has been very effective in keeping the organisation moving forward, it was immediately clear that there was a need to replace the current 'holding pattern' of organisational structure with an agreed well-formed structure in place to provide a more secure and stable platform into the future. This platform will enable the organisation to successfully embark on planned future initiatives and directives.

A proposed structural realignment has been developed in close consultation with the Executive Team and Councillors. The proposed realignment will provide the necessary clarity, security and stability to move into the future as a more structured team with very clear synergies between groups, and a desire to focus on working across teams to achieve a more genuinely 'One Team' approach to service delivery. This proposal is currently being consulted upon with staff, and a final decision will be made at the conclusion of this process following the receipt of feedback.

## 4. IT Review

Considerable progress is being made in Information Services, and the proposed structural realignment (above) includes the promotion of our current Third-Tier Chief Information Officer (Bill Chou) to the Second-Tier Role of GM Information Services.

## 5. Internship Programme

Work is well underway to implement the Waitaki District Council's new University Internship Programme. This initiative aims to attract both domestic and international high calibre University interns to our district in order to carry out a wide range of projects that otherwise would (a) not be undertaken or (b) would be undertaken eventually, but with some delay. So far over 70 projects have been identified. Some of these projects will be Council operations-focused. Others will support community initiatives, or add to the economic, social or environmental resilience of our district.

This Council Agenda includes a report on our internship programme *Pastoral Care* document (for information purposes), and initial interviews with prospective international interns are due to commence on 27 October 2017. Integration with the community is a key element of this project and work is underway to develop a comprehensive programme which ensures that our interns experience everything that the Waitaki district has to offer, so that they can better deliver relevant and valuable services to our community (and also become excellent advocates for us in their home countries upon their return).

## 6. Election

The announcement of a Labour-led coalition government will result in the need to understand the impact of this election outcome on policies that relate to local government.

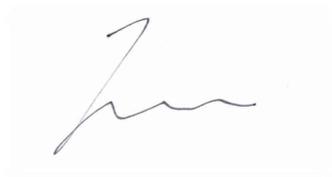
## 7. Business Visits

15 September	Attendance at Observatory Retirement Village Official Opening
21 September	Jason Gaskill, Tourism Waitaki
21 September	Ian Hurst, Observatory Retirement Village
21 September	Michael de Buyzer, Whitestone Contracting
21 September	Robert Gonzales, Waitaki District Health Services
22 September	Mark Smith, Whitestone Civic Trust
25 September	Bruce Blair, Canterbury Woolspinners
26 September	Familiarisation visit to the Northern Hotel, Oamaru
02 October	Robyn Wells, NOIC
05 October	Darryl Paterson, Rector of Waitaki Boys High School
05 October	Simon Berry, Whitestone Cheese
06 October	Hosting of international internships representatives, Oamaru

06 October Joint meetings with Mark Smith (Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust) and international internship representatives, Oamaru  
16 October Mike Lowe, McBrimar Building  
18 October James Glucksman, Chairman of the Waitaki Tourism Association, Pen-Y-Byrn, Jan Kennedy (Steampunk HQ) and Kevin Black (Hampden)

8. **Meetings Attended**

28, 29 September SOLGM Conference, Rotorua (with GM Assets, Neil Jorgensen)  
02 October Attendance at Otago Chamber of Commerce event, Oamaru  
05 October Film Otago Southland Industry Night, Queenstown  
06 October Civil Defence and Emergency Management Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) Meeting, Dunedin  
06 October Otago CEO Forum, Dunedin  
12, 13 October LGNZ Zone 5&6 Meetings, Cromwell  
19 October East Otago Fielddays + Waitaki District site visits  
19 October Gavin Lee, Oceana Gold  
19 October Moeraki Holiday Park  
19 October John Demelow, 4 Square, Hampden  
19 October Brent Craig, Craig's Poultry, Herbert  
20 October Waitaki District site visits (water and waste)



Fergus Power  
**Chief Executive Officer**