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QUARTERLY REPORT

17 September 2012

Welcome to my Sixth newsletter updating you on issues related to the Greater Wellington Regional Council and your community.

This newsletter covers:

- Wellington Bus Review
- Regional Governance
- Increases in Wellington Public Transport Fares

❖ Wellington Bus Service Review

The public consultation on the Wellington Bus Service Review ended on 16 March with more than 6,500 submissions received.

There were strong calls for a rethink of the proposals in suburbs at the end of bus routes (i.e. those suburbs with the least choice of services), such as the Northern suburbs, Southgate, Houghton Valley, Strathmore and Strathmore Heights. The hubbing concept remained a concern for many as did the proposal to replace the trolley bus service from Seatoun to the City (no 11) with a diesel service going via the Terrace.

Victoria University and Wellington hospital users were particularly concerned about the removal of some cross-city services

In July/August councillors and GWRC staff attended a series of meetings with residents associations and representative groups to discuss ways by which the origional proposals could be improved to better meet the needs of local communities. I am pleased to report that as a consequence of these meetings we seem to have found solutions to most issues.

Another round of resident/stakeholder meetings is proposed in October/November to discuss the penultimate network design. If all goes according to plan the staged implementation of the new routes will start in mid to late 2013.

Regional Governance

The Independent Review Panel has been meeting with communities and groups across the region over the last two months. I must say that I have been most impressed with the consultation effort and the thoughtful responses given to people who have asked questions at community meetings.

Submissions on Local Government Reform

- ❖ Submissions to Independent Review Panel on Local Government Reform
- ❖ Submissions close on **21 September 2012**.
- ❖ Submissions can be made via:
  - ❖ Email – info@wellingtonreviewpanel.org.nz
  - ❖ Post – Wellington Region Local Government Review, PO Box 11646, Manner St, Wellington 6142
  - ❖ Online;: http://feedback.wellingtonreviewpanel.org.nz

From comments made in the media by Sir Geoffrey Palmer (Chair of the Panel) it looks like we can expect a report that will seriously consider the functions of local government and how to provide for local democracy and decision-making.

The Panel delivers its report in late October 2012. The Regional Council and territorial authorities will then consider whether or not to seek a change to local government structure in the Wellington region, or part of the region.

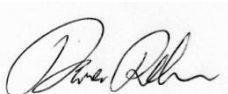### ❖ Increases in Wellington Public Transport Fares

On 27 March the Regional Council again voted to increase fare revenue from public transport by 3% (as it has over each of the past three years). This means that on 1 October fares will increase by on average 3%, but some fares will stay the same while others will increase by much larger percentages, largely due to the need to round to the nearest 50 cents. A few years ago the Council adopted a policy of small regular increases rather than high infrequent increases.

The paper explaining the effects of the increases on different users is at:
http://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/council-reports/Report_PDFs/2012_79_1_Report.pdf

I and two other councilors voted against the fare increases. In my case I have said that I will not entertain any fare increases until the introduction of a fully integrated ticketing system to the Wellington region, which looks like it is still about five years away from being introduced to Wellington.

Please let me know if you have any queries on the abovementioned issues or would like me to attend a meeting to discuss.

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