

Tabled at:

on:

Policy and planning chairman's report

April 2019

Good afternoon and welcome to our meeting, a new day, a new order paper, and a new front page.

We have a number of important local issues on our paper, the oral reporting of our partnering organisations is one, and as they take on those special tasks in our major towns this is an important item for both them and us.

In item 11, there are 2 items that caught my eye, one is the review of delegations in the reserves act (item 5) which could have major implications for this district in terms of how we manage our relationships with our neighbours and undertake or manage weed control, especially in the north of the district.

The other item was the disbanding of the local government commission (item 6), it would seem that life in our space is never static.

Lastly I would like to comment on an item that has been front and centre in the national news media in the last week that is the effectiveness or the lack of it in terms of ongoing management of closed landfills and dumps nationwide. We have all seen the sad pictures of west coast folk picking up inter-generational rubbish from their beaches after the Fox township dump was eaten away by a storm swollen river, what was equally interesting for me was that in the article in Tuesday's Dominion Post newspaper article, "The tip of the trash iceberg" was that our own closed Putorino dump site was the first photo in the line-up and although we were not mentioned explicitly in the article it was a close call, we were probably saved by the enormity of the fox issue. I raise this as to my knowledge we as an administrative body do not report back to this council to my knowledge, what the ongoing status of these ticking time-bombs are, or even where they are. I think we have a moral responsibility to front foot this issue a little more strongly as the reality is that these historic "assets" are not going away any time soon and neither will their legal responsibilities. It is these last two point that have been on my mind since our last council meeting when we learned that our CE was working through the details on whether or not to sell one of our legacy dump sites to a neighbour for an alternative use. I wonder if as a council whether we are truly mindful of our long term legal and moral responsibilities or whether we would rather be expedient in the short term and hope that nasty things never happen to us later on. Time will tell, but this councillor is actively watching with interest.

Angus Gordon

Chairman