

MEDIA RELEASE

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Waimakariri District Council – 'Generally Efficient and Effective'

A Financial Review Working Party, established by the Waimakariri District Council and assisted by an experienced independent facilitator, has found that the "Council is well managed overall, and operates generally in an efficient and effective manner".

The report of the Working Party, to be presented to the Council next week after a 4-month review, concluded however that there are opportunities to improve Council's performance.

The Working Party has made 44 recommendations, including 18 to the Chief Executive Officer, Jim Palmer, seeking improvement in the way some aspects of Council operate, especially the extent to which consultants are used and ways of getting best value from contracted services.

The Working Party, that included the Mayor and five Councillors, drew on a series of independent reports prepared in recent years. The independent reports supported many of the Working Party's conclusions. The Working Party found that the Council has effective management information systems and procedures, robust financial systems, a logical organisation structure, with sound human resource management, and hard working staff who are committed to achieving the Council's objectives.

Waimakariri District Council Mayor, Ron Keating, is pleased with the review's findings. "This financial review process was robust and thorough," he said

"and for the most part we are headed in the right direction. As with any large organisation there are areas where we can do better and that is what we now need to focus on."

Also included in the Working Party's recommendations were improvements to project management and information systems, as well as customer service, consultation and communication practices.

The Working Party acknowledged the rating pressures that the community faces and concluded the Council will need to remain vigilant to minimise rate increases by finding alternative income sources and continuing to seek efficiencies across all Council expenditure.

The Working Party suggests that the Chief Executive should report to the Council on the plan to implement the Review's recommendations. It also recommends that the Council's Audit Committee should monitor progress and the implementation of the recommendations.

The report acknowledged the Chief Executive and Council staff for their constructive engagement with the Working Party during their deliberations and also the expert skills and experience that the independent facilitator, Mr Mike Richardson, brought to the process.

“ This financial review process was robust and thorough and for the most part we are headed in the right direction.

For more information contact:

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