



Local Government New Zealand

te putahi matakokiri

MEDIA RELEASE

Prime Minister recognises importance of relationship between local & central government at LGNZ conference

For immediate release on 17 July 2006

Local and central government elected members and officials, the Prime Minister, overseas experts in the field of local government and key stakeholders came together for the opening of *Local Government New Zealand's* annual conference in Wellington today.

The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark, officially opened the conference this morning, the 7th time she has performed this task as Prime Minister.

In her opening speech she acknowledged the importance of the working relationship between central and local government. She also recognised the critical role councils have in engaging with many stakeholders, including central government, to reach their desired community outcomes.

"The theme of this year's conference, *Leading Communities*, focuses on councils as community leaders, drawing on examples of best practice from within New Zealand and the international stage," says *Local Government New Zealand's* President Basil Morrison.

"*Local Government New Zealand* has brought together a programme of top-rate speakers to address some of the issues unique to the roles and responsibilities of councils. They have been tasked with challenging our sector to think about the big issues and identify opportunities for councils to build on their profiles as community leaders," he says.

The conference, which will be attended by a number of Cabinet Ministers, including Local Government Minister, Hon Mark Burton, Dr Don Brash, Leader of the Opposition, and experts in the field of local government, will run today and tomorrow.

Over 600 delegates have registered for the conference including representatives from most councils, private sector leaders and other stakeholders with an interest in the local government sector.

For further details and information about the conference please see the attached programme or visit www.lgnz.co.nz.

The website will be kept up-to-date during the conference with daily media releases and presentations from the conference.

Ends

Local Government New Zealand is the national voice of all 85 councils of New Zealand.

Keynote speakers, Local Government New Zealand's President & National Council Members will be available for interviews daily during breaks. To organise an interview during the conference contact:

Meredith Barker

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All conference sessions are open to media except those identified in the programme (attached). For health and safety purposes all delegates are required to register on arrival, including members of the media, and must wear a name badge which will be issued upon registration.

Keynote speaker bios and synopses

Mildred Warner

Mildred is an Associate Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, New York. Her work focuses primarily on local government service delivery and new community development models for addressing human services. Her work shows potential for market based solutions in public service delivery but also raises cautions about the uneven incidence of markets in depressed inner city and rural areas. Dr Warner's research explores the issues of privatization, devolution and economic development.

Local Government: Serving Citizens in a Competitive World

Privatisation, decentralisation, representation, global competitiveness, democracy, efficiency, equity - these are the contradictory challenges that local government leaders face in this century. How do we balance the need for market competitiveness and efficiency with our mission to serve citizens? How do local governments absorb the new responsibilities passed down to us by decentralization, and do so within narrow budget constraints? How do we balance the need to create more opportunities for deliberation among an increasingly diverse citizenry, with the demands for efficient and fast decision

making? How do we stay true to the local while reaching up to the regional and global scales?

Jim Soorley

Jim Soorley has a diverse background which includes ten years as a catholic priest, five years in the selection and recruitment industry and twelve years as Lord Mayor of Brisbane. His formal qualifications are a Bachelor of Arts majoring in psychology and a Master of Arts in organisational psychology.

As Lord Mayor of the largest local government authority in Australia, he presided over an annual budget of \$1.6 billion and a workforce of 7,000. He was elected four times, winning by resounding margins, until he stepped aside in 2003. His greatest achievement as Mayor was taking Brisbane from a city with a country town mentality into a vibrant urban metropolis without compromising its livability.

Jim is currently consulting to business and is on several boards in Australia.

A Creative Future for Local Government: Partnering and Utilisation of Assets
Local governments around the world are being pressured by regional and national governments to deliver more services in a tight fiscal environment. Community expectations for improved and innovative services are growing and becoming harder to meet. The future lies in partnerships with the community, other levels of government, and business. For "cash-poor but asset-rich" councils, liberation and innovation can only come through new ways of doing business - long-term partnerships with the private sector.

Hon Jeff Kennett

Jeff Kennett entered the Victorian State Parliament in 1977. He served in the Liberal Government in the early 1980's as Minister for Housing, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs and was elected Leader of the Opposition in October 1982.

Under his leadership, the Liberal-National Party coalition was elected to government in 1992, with two-to-one majorities in both Houses of Parliament - a position unparalleled in almost 140 years of State Government in Victoria. The coalition was returned to office in 1996.

Mr Kennett continued as Premier during the coalition's second term. Under Mr Kennett's premiership, Victoria earned a reputation as Australia's most reformist state. His government implemented reforms to the Victorian public service, led Australia in the privatisation of public utilities, reduced the State's deficit from \$33 billion to \$5.5 billion, reinvigorated the economy and reinstated confidence amongst the Victorian community.

Local Leadership

Leadership is about the future, taking people to places they have not been before. The concept of leadership applies to everyone in families, business, and all levels of government. Therefore local government is charged with the need to develop proud, harmonious communities, through the creative

utilization of its people and assets. Leadership is not for the faint hearted, but it can be the most satisfying place to be if you deliver.

Chris Moller

Chris Moller was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the New Zealand Rugby Union on 30 January 2003.

Prior to taking up this position, Chris was the Deputy Chief Executive of Fonterra, New Zealand's largest company, and Managing Director of New Zealand Milk Products (NZMP). NZMP is Fonterra's global ingredients business responsible for the entire cow-to-consumer value chain from milk collection through manufacturing and logistics to marketing. It is Fonterra's largest business subsidiary contributing about half of Fonterra's total earnings.

Prior to joining the dairy industry Chris held several senior marketing and financial roles with various organisations including Barings Brothers London, Broadbank Corporation and Fletcher Challenge London.

A graduate of Victoria University of Wellington (B. Com. & Admin., Dip. Acctg.), Chris has also attended the London School of Economics and the Advanced Management Programme at INSEAD in France.

Preparing for the Rugby World Cup 2011

New Zealand has started planning and preparing for the Rugby World Cup 2011. This presentation will highlight key areas of local government involvement including infrastructure and facilities development, community leadership and community involvement.

John Allen

John Allen is the Chief Executive of New Zealand Post and was appointed to this role in May 2003. John joined New Zealand Post in 1994 and held a number of senior management roles prior to his appointment as Chief Executive, including, Partner, Rudd Watts & Stone, and visiting lecturer in law at Victoria University of Wellington. He holds a number of directorships and is currently chair of Datamail Limited and Territorial Forces Employer Support Council.

Local Government New Zealand Conference Programme, 17-19 July 2006

Monday 17 July

8am-9am	Conference Registration Fletcher Challenge Foyer, Michael Fowler Centre
9am-9.45am	Mihi & Official Welcome by Prime Minister, Rt Hon Helen Clark Town Hall Auditorium
9.45am-10.30am	Keynote Jim Soorley, ex Lord Mayor of Brisbane Town Hall Auditorium
10.30am-11am	Morning Tea Renouf Foyer, Michael Fowler Centre
11am-12.20pm	Break-out sessions based on Jim Soorley's address See registration desk for venues
12.20pm-1.20pm	Lunch
1.20pm - 2pm	Dr.Mildred Warner, Associate Professor, Cornell University Town Hall Auditorium
2pm-3.20pm	Break-out sessions based on Dr.Mildred Warner 's address See registration desk for venues
3.20pm-3.50pm	Afternoon tea Renouf Foyer, Michael Fowler Centre
3.50pm-4.30pm	John Allen, Chief Executive, New Zealand Post Town Hall Auditorium
4.30pm-4.45pm	Alan Milne, Mayor, Kapiti Coast District Council The Challenge of Climate Change for New Zealand Local Authorities Town Hall Auditorium
4.45pm-5pm	Wrap-up and outcomes Town Hall Auditorium

Tuesday 18 July

9am-9.40am	Hon Jeff Kennett, Former Premier of Victoria Town Hall Auditorium
9.40am-10m	Creative Places Awards Town Hall Auditorium
10am-10.30am	Morning Tea
10.30am-12pm	Concurrent sessions, please choose one <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strategic futures, Civic Suite 1, 2 & 32. The billion dollar question, Town Hall Auditorium

- 3. Working together to build strong communities, **Ilott Theatre**
 - 4. More than just a game, **Lion Harbourview Lounge**
- 12pm-1pm Lunch
- 1pm-2.30pm Concurrent sessions, please choose one
- 1. Cronulla: Could it happen here? **Green Room**
 - 2. Is there life after community outcomes? **Civic Suite 1 & 2**
 - 3. Driving your economy, **Ilott Theatre**
 - 4. Weighing local costs and national benefits, **Lion Harbourview Lounge**
- 2.30pm-3pm Afternoon tea
- 3pm-3.30pm Chris Moller, Chief Executive Officer, NZRFU
Town Hall Auditorium
- 3.30pm-4.10pm Address from the Leader of the Opposition
Address from the Minister of Local Government
Town Hall Auditorium
- 4.10pm-4.20pm Carl Wright, Director, Commonwealth Local Government Forum
Commonwealth Local Government Forum Conference 2007
Town Hall Auditorium
- 4.20pm-4.40pm Wrap-up and outcomes
Town Hall Auditorium

Wednesday 19 July – Membership only day