

## Mark Simpson reappointed CEO of Whangarei District Council.



The rumor mills had been working overtime regarding the expiration of the Employment Contract of Whangarei District Council, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mark Simpson and who was to replace him. Over time, I for one, had serious doubts about his suitability and had publically not been afraid to voice my concerns. But there is a far bigger picture and we must look outside the square. It is so often easy to only think of the negatives and not even consider the positives. Since and during the latest local body election a few names had been bandied around. If one genuinely analyzed some of those named you had to wonder what the future of our local council would have been. On a number of occasions I had not been on the greatest receiving end of Mark Simpson's demeanor. I personally felt and had heard from others that he had no respect for the people of the district, who incidentally pay his salary, with a large degree of improvement needed in his attitude. While sincerely sitting down and comparing Mark to some names that we had been made aware of, many serious thoughts were kindled. I had to compare Mark with others, along the lines of "I know Mark can be arrogant and rude, but he has a wealth of knowledge in local governance". Among some of the other names that were tossed around, not only did some appear to have 'arrogant attitudes but also no local body knowledge, therefore lacking experience'. I thought do we need to change just for the sake of change, is the present CEO untenable, or are these others going to represent Whangarei better than the present. Surprisingly, I came to the situation that perhaps 'the devil we know may well be better, than the one we don't know'. I am therefore pleased that the situation has been solved and Mark now knows his future with Whangarei District Council for the next four years. There will be many out there that possibly don't and never will agree with my comments made above, but we must move on and hope that the process recently undertaken has had learning's in it, for all involved. It is indeed the Chief Executive Officer that sets the expected standards, the morals, the attitude and the culture of our council. Let's hope professionalism and good common sense prevails.

Hopefully under the watchful eyes of both the CEO Review Committee and CEO Appointment Committees (as detailed below with their duties) best practice and KPI (key performance indicators) and any other details in the employment contract, are strictly adhered to ensuring the citizens of the district, with their many varied issues, requests and demands, are treated with the respect they duly are deserved by one, in such a position. Those citizens interested, need to carefully watch and ensure those responsible in the following committees are held to account.

**CEO Review Committee:** The purpose of this committee is to manage the employment of the Chief Executive Officer.

**Chairperson:** His Worship the Mayor Morris Cutforth. **Members:** Councillors Shelley Deeming, Phil Halse, Greg Martin and Warwick Syers. **Terms of Reference :** To manage the employment of the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Section 42 and Clauses 34 to 35 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 on behalf of Council including; · establishing performance goals · monitoring performance · reporting on performance annually and · to report to council as required.

**Delegated responsibilities, duties and powers:** To make recommendations to Council for approval in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

**CEO Appointment Committee: Chairperson** Cr Warwick Syers. Ex-officio: His Worship the Mayor Morris Cutforth

**Members:** Councillors Shelley Deeming and John Williamson. **Terms of Reference** · To manage the employment of the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with section 42 and clauses 34 to 35 schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 on behalf of Council. In particular · Conducting the employment process if required and to · report to Council as required. **Delegated**

**Responsibilities, Duties and Powers:** To make recommendations to Council for approval in accordance with the Terms of Reference.