

Whangarei District Council Environment meeting

- 10th November 2010

The first Environment meeting of the new Council term kicked off to a fine start at 0900hrs with all Councillors present to discuss the four items on the agenda. The Environment Monthly Report (Item 1) would have been all over in a matter of a few minutes if the Environmental Services Manager didn't have his two pennies worth to say. One of the most pleasing things is the Food Premises grading. All people should check, when eating out somewhere, how the establishment they are dining at fares in the listings. These ratings should be displayed in the premises, (ask if you wish to know how they are graded) and many establishments who are proud of their grading do have them prominently displayed. We have always been aware of the places we like to dine and it is often not the expensive places that have the good ratings. Congratulations to those that do maintain top standards in catering to our needs.

It was interesting that a new councilor moved back from the table, (to prevent possible conflicts of interest), with a number of issues tabled. Almost thought he was going to spend more time in the back bench than up to the table for the debates. But good on you Councilor for showing some integrity right from the start.

Item 2, The LTCCP (Long Term Council Community Plan) score card created a little interest, but why don't we just make it a little easier if we can't accomplish the targets set. Were they a touch too hard on themselves?

Item 3, Discussion on a Plan Change, again and a councilor moved back from the table. We could be up for new carpet at this rate.

Item 4, Was discussion of the Environment Group Delegations Manual. A bit of an interesting read in this item, about who has the POWER to do this and that, how much and in what circumstances. Independent Commissioners were the topic of this item. True independence does unfortunately come at a cost. Many locals would perhaps be too close to the fire and afraid to make unpopular decisions if possibly appointed as commissioners, so it seems there is possibly better independence from a distance. One great comment from a seasoned warrior was 'Resource Consents must be based on Fact not on Feeling'. A perfect statement, to bring some reality to the Resource Consent process and what it's all about. It was obvious to those in the public gallery that some were a little gun-shy and sat silently in the chamber while the more seasoned jostled for points. The meeting closed at 0936hrs.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)