

Two urgent problems

On July 9, you published two letters dealing with two basic responsibilities of both councils. The letters were from Warren Slater and Bill Gibson. Both call for immediate action from the councils.

First, we need to get the sewage in the harbour problem fixed. No more promises and patches. The money can be found. It always can when the priorities are served.

Secondly, it is no use waiting for the oil crisis to arrive before we do something. We need to be prepared. It is almost too late now. Urgent action is needed to build the Marsden Point rail extension. If the whole Northern rail service was turned into a service it would become economically viable and a goldmine for tourism and industrial development. Get the tracks built and upgraded. Get the trains moving.

These two issues are two of the fundamental reasons councils exist,

community health and transport, and can no longer be ignored. Action is needed now.

When you have time, go and look at the Raumanga stream where it passes under the road near the Walton St roundabout. The water is green and opaque. It stinks. How long before the rest of the harbour is the same?

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Get back to basics

In response to Wayne Boyd's letter (July 8), maybe you need to take off your blinkers and see what's happening around you. I do agree that the previous councils have done widespread damage and it's not a

quick-fix solution to get us back on track. While I agree that the WDC is a multimillion dollar business, it also has social and environmental responsibilities, so not only do we need business nous we also have to be compassionate.

To be just a businessman can be dangerous. After all, isn't it big business that has caused the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and isn't big business also the reason we have the worst economic downturn since the 1930s? Maybe we need to look at the top management structure of the WDC and have a really good clean out as the CEO and his underlings have been there through the previous three councils.

With regards to Mr Slater, I do believe if a person can semi-retire in

their mid 40s to 50s they must be financially successful and have a bit of nous about them. For people to give up their time (unpaid) to keep up with the local political issues so they can make informed decisions and comments has to be applauded.

So in short, Mr Boyd, I, as many others, do worry about the harbour, the environment and the economy so we can leave this world a better place for future generations. We need to stop taking a self-centred approach, stop building monuments to ourselves and get this council back to the core basics of infrastructure upgrading, reducing debt, promoting growth and good old common sense thinking.

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