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President's Foreword

This will be my last commentary on our annual achievements, this time for the 2007/08 year. Ahead of us we have the prospect of a general election, with sustained good relations with the Government at the political level, and significantly improved relations with other parties. Regrettably, I will not be present as President to view what actually happens.

In my introduction to the 2007/08 Work Programme I identified five priority issues. The first, very important set of activities related to the 2007 local government elections. Our involvement in the lead-up to the elections was more in the nature of support, in responding to considerable media interest about the generic issues facing local government, and working with Government to encourage voter turnout. Post-election, our focus turned firmly on our members, with training for newly elected Mayors, and New Elected Members workshops for over 300 people at nine locations across New Zealand.

The Independent Inquiry into Local Government Rates presented what was potentially the most openminded opportunity to debate local government funding issues since I have been in local government. While we did not agree with all the recommendations, those addressing the sustainability of government finances and the need for additional Government assistance to infrastructure opened up the debate. I commend the teams at both Local Government New Zealand and the Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) for the quality of excellent response as the Inquiry proceeded, from the initial pre-submission widely used by councils, to the most recent analysis of the consequences of recommended changes to the rating regime ("No Magic Answers"). It is one my deepest regrets that a favourable outcome to the Funding Assistance Rate review, a long-standing undertaking of the current Government, did not occur.

We came to appreciate in 2007/08 how much of *Local Government New Zealand*'s resource is involved in responding to Government initiatives affecting local government. As both the number and complexity of regulations grows, our resources are engaging across an increasingly broad front. A lot of this activity has been preventative, in reducing rather than eliminating the cost and compliance consequences of new regulation. We remain opposed to some legislation in principle, like the Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act, while we work with agencies to improve others, such as the Waste Minimisation Bill, and the Summary Offences (Tagging and Graffiti Vandalism) Bill.

I set a goal last year to work at a higher level to improve the Government/local government relationship. We have continued to engage through the Central Local Government Forum and this remains a critical arena for engagement.

Finally, I placed emphasis on strengthening and, for our newly elected members, establishing communication with our membership. We have continued our regular and visible accountability through the zone and sector meetings, and worked hard to develop a sense of value for money among our membership.

Thank you for your support and understanding over the seven years of my Presidency. It has been one of the defining experiences of my life.

Basil Morrison

President

Chief Executive's Introduction

The following pages set out the detail of the year's activities and achievements. The 2007 local elections set a focus on membership training and development, where I believe we delivered consistently and well.

Our own *Local Government New Zealand* elections produced nine new National Council members, who moved quickly and competently up to speed to address important policy decisions, as we worked with our membership to develop our priorities and the sector manifesto for the 2008 general elections. That document is now in the public domain and provides the basis for our engagement with all political parties. The high pace of government legislation did not abate during 2007 and has accelerated in the first half of 2008.

Our finances have returned to surplus, as a higher than predicted uptake of new elected member training and sale of publications provided income to restore our reserves. Other income streams, in particular contributory funding from Government, have shrunk in recent years and we remain primarily dependent

on subscriptions to fund our activities. Operating costs have generally been well contained, although competition in Wellington for core skills is a persistent cost driver. Overall, our financial health is good.

Concerning our interaction with our members, a major development over the last two or three years has been an increase in the frequency and policy content of the sector meetings. The rural/provincial sector meetings are now a well-attended overnight event and all sector meetings have developed their discrete sets of priorities and actions. We have worked hard to assist communications between sectors and to develop our members' understanding of the extent to which their interests overlap. The zone meetings also continue to attract good attendance.

Thank you all for your continued support and contribution to the activities of *Local Government New Zealand*.

Eugene Bowen
Chief Executive

Sector Goals

Supporting community well-being

Outcomes

- councils are supported to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities, in the present and for the future
- effective collaboration between central government and local communities occurs across the range of community well-beings, including civil defence and emergency management, bridging the digital divide
- councils' contribution to community well-being is acknowledged, and enhanced through the sharing of good practice
- councils are supported in their application of a sustainable development approach in their work with and on behalf of communities.

- advocated for local government interests and provided policy leadership in relation to emergency management including:
 - supporting work to develop the Flood Risk Management Protocol into a New Zealand standard and preparing a submission on the draft standard
 - input into work on reviewing the civil defence strategy, civil defence plan and guide
 - advocacy on the development of national policy on the review of fire and rescue services

- provided policy leadership and tools to assist councils to apply the principles of sustainable development. This included:
 - developing a range of case studies on the sustainable development approaches of councils around the country
 - input on the proposed methodology for the next Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) audit of Long Term Council Community Plans (LTCCPs) in relation to sustainable development
 - reporting on and revising the Local
 Government New Zealand Urban Design

 Protocol Action Plan for the coming two year period
- advocated for local government interests and provided policy leadership on social issues of national significance, including affordable housing, community safety, alcohol, gambling, graffiti, weathertight homes and other issues as required
- submitted on a range of Bills, including
 Affordable Housing: Enabling Territorial
 Authorities Bill, Policing Bill, Gaming
 Amendment Bill, Summary Offences (Tagging
 and Graffiti Vandalism) Bill. We also contributed
 to the policy development phase of the review
 of the Private Investigators and Security Guards
 Act 1974

Enhancing environmental outcomes

Outcomes

- councils are supported by central government and Local Government New Zealand to enhance environmental outcomes in their communities
- local government works collaboratively with central government and communities to enhance the natural and built environment
- the contribution made by councils to environmental well-being is recognised by both central government and communities.

- advocated for local government interests in the development of central government policy on climate change including:
 - comment and submissions on the proposed emissions trading scheme
 - supporting the local government representatives on the climate change leadership group, peak group, central government project teams and National Council sub-committee
 - supporting communities for the climate protection programme
 - ongoing communication with councils on climate change matters
- provided policy leadership in relation to local government interests in energy policy, through a reformed local government energy advisory group, which provided input into the New Zealand Energy Strategy and National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. This included proposals for a National Policy Statement (NPS) on renewable electricity generation and solar hot water heating initiatives
- continued involvement in the development of government policy on the Sustainable Water
 Programme of Action including:
 - supporting the Regional Affairs Committee water sub-committee and officials group

- worked with councils to identify key issues and priority actions requested of Government in relation to alcohol policy. This included a Review of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol to Minors, a Review of Advertising Standards for Alcohol, and a Review of the National Alcohol Strategy
- co-organised an Affordable Housing Summit
 and regional Affordable Housing workshops
 for councils and other stakeholders. Worked
 with Housing New Zealand and various
 councils in attempts to influence the proposed
 Government legislation. When the Affordable
 Housing: Enabling Territorial Authorities Bill was
 announced, Local Government New Zealand
 developed a number of discussion papers for
 councils, and worked closely with councils to
 develop submissions on the Bill (including an
 alternative Bill)
- supported councils to share good practice and build capability by providing training in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and hosting sessions at the Diversity Forum in 2007
- worked with the Families Commission and Office of the Commissioner for Children which intend to develop Child and Family Impact Assessment tools for local government
- contributed to a range of youth related policy work and implementation, including Youth Transition Services and Youth Development Partnership Fund
- supported the metro sector in research on the health impacts of leaky homes, scoping the scale of the weathertightness issue, and advocated for alternative options to resolve the weathertightness issue and fix leaky homes
- advocated for local government interests and worked with cultural agencies to develop the Graduates in Museums project and a guide for Museums on working with local government.

Supporting regional growth

Outcomes

- councils are supported in making sustainable economic development and planning interventions for the benefit of their local communities
- local government is able to work collaboratively with government agencies and others to maintain influential participation in developing and delivering sustainable economic development interventions and policy.

- supported the development and implementation of regional economic development policy and programme changes announced in April. This included partnering with the Economic Development Agency of New Zealand (EDANZ) to develop and launch the economic development information and monitoring website "Proving It". There was ongoing project work with Ministry of Economic Development (MED) reviewing regional governance structures and a stocktake of activities to help identify delivery gaps throughout the country
- developed and planned local government responses to the update of the NZ Tourism Strategy 2010. Local Government New Zealand's submission to the draft NZTS 2015 resulted in significant changes being made to the final document, which better recognised the role of local government in tourism. Progress was made in elevating the funding of tourism related infrastructure to the top priority for the Ministry of Tourism. In response to the NZTS 2015, Local Government New Zealand developed an integrated local government action plan called the "Visitor Friendly" project, which will be implemented throughout 2008/09
- promoted the application of tourism planning, management tools and strategies to support sustainable tourism development, including work on general principles and policies for freedom camping, waste management practices, and research on council planning practices for destination management.

- advocating and commenting on implementation issues on the water metering National Environmental Standard (NES)
- commenting on the NES on ecological flows and water levels
- advocating the local government position on the possible content and direction of a future water management NPS
- supporting a "stock-take" of current council policy approaches to water allocation
- monitoring the implementation of the Clean Streams and Dairying Accord and participation into developing an approach to the review of the Accord
- provided input and comment on future waste legislation, with the preparation of a local government submission on the Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) to the Waste Minimisation Bill and participated in local government workshops on implications of the Bill
- advocated for local government interests through membership of the Packaging Accord Governing Board and participated in a central government strategic review of the Accord. Worked with the Ministry for the Environment to develop a process to review the Waste Strategy targets. Participated in the steering group for the Recycling in Public Places Project, and participated in a number of product stewardship initiatives
- worked with central government agencies and local authorities to enhance understanding of environmental well-being issues, including work on biosecurity and commenting on environmental research proposals seeking government funding.

Sustaining transport and other infrastructure

Outcomes

- councils are supported to provide a safe, efficient, sustainable and adequately funded transport system for their local communities
- local government, through collaboration with government agencies and others, continues to influence the achievement of the objectives of the New Zealand Transport Strategy
- local government, through collaboration with government agencies and others, delivers to communities cost-effective and sustainable asset management of services and utilities
- local government is able to work collaboratively with government agencies and each other in the delivery of the e-local government strategy across all of local government.

- maintained support and liaison with all key transport sector agencies and groups.
 The "Next Steps" review announced on 25
 May 2007 culminated in the Land Transport
 Management Amendment Bill and increased activity and engagement particularly with the
 Ministry of Transport and Land Transport
 New Zealand. Local Government New Zealand worked with officials on development of the Bill and in the preparation of a submission to the
 Select Committee
- co-ordinated and made submissions on the Passenger Transport Management Bill and a number of other documents including NZ Coastal Shipping, and the Updated New Zealand Transport Strategy. Local Government New Zealand continued to advocate with Government, through regular liaison meetings with the Minister of Transport,

- for an increase in the Financial Assistance Rate. Whilst not being successful in that regard, some flexibility in the use of "R" funding was achieved
- maintained involvement with the Road
 Controlling Authorities forum and the
 New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group. The
 focus of involvement was in the preparation
 of a Code to better define responsibilities
 for access to the road corridor. We believe
 significant gains to advance the sector's
 interests have been made, particularly in
 relation to the Land Transport Management
 Bill. Local Government New Zealand was also
 a partner in organising the very successful
 Transport Futures conference in Christchurch
 during July 2007
- worked with the Ministry of Health on development of criteria for the Drinking Water Assistance Programme subsidy scheme. We maintained membership of the Sanitary and Water Technical Advisory Committee and participated in the allocation of funding through the Drinking Water Assistance Programme. Additionally, Local Government New Zealand lobbied the Minister of Health on numerous occasions for an increase in funding to ensure the continuance of the Sanitary Works Subsidy Scheme. Despite a modest increase in Budget 2008 to the Sanitary Works Subsidy Scheme, the Government has yet to address an equitable and sustainable funding regime for council water infrastructure
- maintained a close working relationship with INGENIUM and participated in the National Asset Management Steering (NAMS) group and the Water Infrastructure Management Steering (WIMS) workgroup as resourcing

permitted. Opportunities to enhance the broader understanding of infrastructure need and funding have been taken in relation to the Rating Inquiry and the ongoing workstreams. The concepts of sustainable infrastructure underpinning sustainable communities have also been promoted at every opportunity

worked alongside Land Information
New Zealand, Ministry for Economic
Development and State Services Commission
to progress work in relation to geospatial,
broadband, e-government and digital strategy
issues. This work also included advocacy in
relation to the National Address Register, which
has not advanced as quickly as many of our
members would have liked. In February 2007,
Local Government New Zealand organised the
Local Government Broadband Forum, which
was well attended. Work has been progressed
on a broadband "Know How" guide and a
number of other initiatives.

Maintain and enhance the framework for local governance and democratic participation

Outcomes

- the statutory framework for local governance meets the needs of councils and communities
- elected members are aware of their responsibilities and provided with the information to undertake effective governance
- informed citizens exercise their democratic franchise in the 2007 local authority elections.

- contributed to the Local Government
 Commission's assessment of the Local
 Government Act 2002 and Local Electoral Act
 2001. Following a series of regional workshops
 held in 2006, a submission on desired changes
 was forwarded to the Commission along with a
 submission from SOLGM
- developed and implemented a programme to raise public awareness about the 2007 local government elections and assist councils to promote increased participation. This work included: an elections resource kit (including the Vote 2007 logo and *Make a Stand* booklets); rating graph templates; six fact sheets on funding local government, strengthening communities, effective leadership, making good decisions, engaging with the community and council-Mäori engagement; and an interactive website game to promote the elections
- issued several opinion pieces and media releases on local government and took advantage of the high media interest just prior to the elections. This media coverage increased the profile of local government and Local Government New Zealand and possibly helped to improve voter turnout

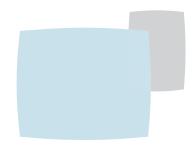
Strengthening local government finances and capacity

Outcomes

- councils have access to the necessary funds and funding tools to meet statutory and community expectations
- councils are fully aware of their statutory responsibilities and act innovatively and effectively to meet them
- national organisations and academic institutions are mobilised to assist local authorities to enhance capacity and performance.

- worked with SOLGM on the preparation of a
 joint submission to the Independent Inquiry
 into Local Government Rates. Following the
 publication of the Report, established a joint
 Local Government New Zealand/SOLGM Task
 Force to oversee the local government sector's
 response to the Inquiry's recommendations.
 This involved:
 - an overview paper comparing the Inquiry's recommendations with the local government position, which was sent to all members
 - working with the Department of Internal Affairs on their assessment of the Inquiry's recommendations
 - commissioning advice in order to strengthen the local government view that there should be greater central government contribution to the cost of local government infrastructure
- managed the annual programme of standards development and revision through Standards New Zealand

- co-ordinated the inter-agency group for communications activity for the elections.
 This group had representatives from several councils, SOLGM and the four central agencies involved with the elections (Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Electoral Enrolment Centre and the Electoral Commission)
- prepared a submission for the Justice and Electoral Committee's review of the 2007 local authority elections
- maintained a relationship with the
 Remuneration Authority and assisted it to
 increase the list of Resource Management
 functions for which councillors should receive
 compensation. We also commissioned a pilot
 study of a sample of Mayors' roles to determine
 whether or not current levels of remuneration
 reflect the demands made on the position
- continued to co-ordinate the Growing Active
 Citizens Group, which is a collaboration of
 councils and central agencies set up to increase
 active participation in local communities, local
 government and other community decisionmaking processes. In 2007/08 we:
 - developed and implemented the first nationwide Kids Voting programme in conjunction with the local government elections. The evaluation showed that Kids Voting increased awareness and understanding of the elections
 - developed the Youth Citizens Jury kit. The Growing Active Citizens Group is currently finalising a second resource for use by schools and councils.



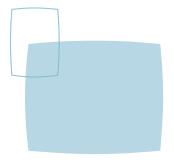
Building local government capability

- managed the Action Bio-community project through to its completion in September 2007. This included development of a biodiversity funds guide for councils, ongoing updates to the Action Bio-community website, and discussions with the Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment about the future non-statutory work programme to support local government in biodiversity responsibilities
- developed good practice material and promoted the application of this material, notably information communication technology, tourism planning tools and Film Friendly Protocol. Another four councils have signed up to the Film Friendly Protocol, bringing the total to 33 councils
- assisted with implementation of new local authority responsibilities to ensure good practice, notably supporting the initial implementation of the national dog database, and developing/supporting the initial administrative arrangements for implementation of the Land Information Memorandum (LIM) requirements of the new Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act
- supported central government programmes targeting councils and aimed at enhanced performance by local government. This included involvement in governance groups, reviewing guidance/training material, distributing programme material and promoting programmes for the Resource Management Act (RMA) quality planning website, RMA Making Good Decisions Programme, Communities for Climate Protection and the Confederation of Future Computer Professionals.

Outcomes

- elected members have the opportunity to undertake training and development appropriate to their needs
- excellence in local authority practice is recognised locally, nationally and internationally
- councils aware of and understanding good practice in the relationship between local government and lwi/Mäori.

- organised a series of "introduction to local government" courses for more than 300 elected members throughout New Zealand, plus a workshop for new mayors and regional council chairs to help them prepare for their responsibilities
- organised training programmes for elected members, including a workshop on hiring and managing relationships with chief executives and a series of workshops on how to be a successful community board member. Commissioned the preparation of a guide on financial governance for elected members, to be used as a basis for developing modules
- published a new edition of the Elected Members' Handbook as well as guidelines for hiring and managing chief executive performance
- supported councils that were interested in establishing relationships with Pacific Island councils and offered technical expertise as part of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum
- promoted and organised the programme for the Local Government New Zealand good practice trip to Queensland for elected members, to be held in 2008



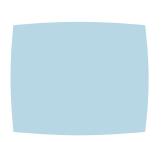
- developed two new resources to support councils in building stronger relationships with iwi, hapu and other Mäori groups. The first resource is an easy to read fact sheet that provides information on the benefits of building good relationships with Mäori, statutory responsibilities, and ways of strengthening engagement. The second provides responses to frequently asked questions by councils about council-Mäori engagement
- developed materials to support the delivery of workshops on council-Mäori engagement.
 We have been working with interested councils to prepare for the delivery of workshops in 2008/09
- liaised with Te Maataapuna, the Iwi Liaison Officers' collective and attended their national forum
- provided general policy advice on Mäori-local government relationships and Mäori representation.

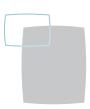
Pelivering good regulatory outcomes

Outcomes

- central government agencies work collaboratively and effectively with local government with full awareness of the implications of regulatory matters on local government
- local government provides high quality input into the development of regulation to ensure it meets the needs of local communities with minimised compliance costs
- programmes for the implementation of local government regulatory responsibilities are effective and workable.

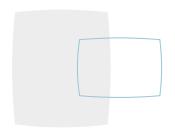
- advocated for local government interests and provided policy leadership in contributing to the development of new policy and legislation relevant to local government. Local Government New Zealand:
 - sat on a reference group, made submissions and reviewed draft Bills and implementation plans for the Food Safety Review
 - liaised with officials, made a submission, and appeared at the Select Committee hearing for the Public Health Bill
 - commented on discussion documents and advocated on the Walking Access review and Unformed Legal Roads review
 - reviewed legislation for the Exclusive
 Economic Zone and Oceans Policy
 - prepared a local government submission on discussion documents on the Building Code review, private Building Consent Authority "adequate means", Building Consent Authority registration standards, and submissions
 - appeared at Select Committee hearings on the Building Amendment Bill and Building (Late Consent is a Free Consent) Amendment Bill





- prepared submissions on the Dog Control
 Act and Dog Control Amendment Bill
- prepared a submission and appeared at the Select Committee hearing on the Regulatory Responsibility Bill
- participated in development of climate change policy, flood risk management policy, fire and rescue services review, national civil defence strategy and new waste legislation
- Contributed to implementation of existing legislation. Local Government New Zealand:
 - advocated for improvements in the interpretation/administration of the Building Consent Authority accreditation process. This included providing councils with the opportunity to share accreditation resources via the *Local Government New Zealand* website, developing formal qualifications for building officials with stage one qualification, now registered with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), and stage two qualification, now under development in conjunction with the Local Government Industry Training Organisation (LGITO)
 - was involved in the development of infringement regulations and participated in a cross-sector project to scope the feasibility of a national system to share information on building products/systems and compliance with the Building Code
 - attended National Dogs Database meetings, and advised on dog control regulatory guidelines and implementation issues relating to the Dog Control Act
 - prepared a research paper on the interface issues between the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 and Resource Management Act

- advocated for alternative solutions to resolving weathertight homes claims under the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act
- undertook a survey of councils on LIM activity in the 2006/07 year and published a report on the findings under the Local Government and Official Information and Meetings Act
- participated in the Aquaculture Implementation team, and advocated for central government resources to assist councils in implementation
- participated in the development of all proposed NPS and NES. Local Government New Zealand commented on policy papers and scoping proposals, prepared local government submissions to discussion documents and submissions to proposed NPS/NES, appeared at Board of Inquiry hearings, hosted local government workshops/ project team meetings, advocated and commented on implementation proposals and issues. Involvement related to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement review, electricity transmission NPS and NES, telecommunications NES, renewable energy NPS, urban design NPS, water management NPS, water metering NES, contaminated land NES and flood management NPS
- participated in the Ministerial Review of Quality Regulation led by the Ministry of Economic Development. Advocated for outcomes of benefit to local government on the Officials Group and the project relating to Building Act/Resource Management Act interface.



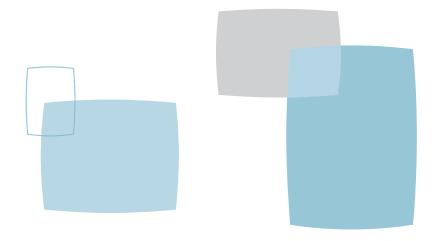
Connecting with our members

Outcomes

the member councils of Local Government
 New Zealand are well informed on the
 organisation's activities and of all regulatory
 and policy developments likely to affect them,
 and their input is accurately captured
 in representations to Government.

- supported the National Council in its governance role through the organisation of regular meetings and preparation of supporting material for the meetings
- held regularly scheduled sector meetings and participated in all zone meetings
- supported and participated in regular Community Boards' Executive Committee meetings through the organisation of regular meetings and preparation of supporting material
- held a successful Local Government
 New Zealand conference and Annual General
 Meeting in Dunedin in 2007. There were 561
 delegates at the conference, comprising 348
 full registrations plus additional registrations
 for specific days, accompanying partners and
 social functions. The conference evaluation
 was very positive with particular reference to
 excellent keynote speakers and enjoyable
 social functions

- published and distributed the 2006/07 Annual Report, the 2008 Manifesto and the 2007/08 Work Programme commentary
- organised workshops to develop policy and to educate member councils on new legislation requirements. The workshops included the Local Government Broadband Forum, Hiring Chief Executives, five Community Board Workshops, the New Mayors' course, and twelve workshops for New Elected Members across the country
- produced publications to inform policy debate or provide guidance information for councils on new legislation requirements, including the production and distribution of the Elected Members' Handbook
- liaised with the media to ensure a continuing high profile for Local Government New Zealand, particularly on the elections and rating issues which dominated the public agenda. During the year Local Government New Zealand issued 20 media releases and responded to 239 media enquiries
- continued to provide timely and quality information to members and stakeholders through newsletters (*Quarterly News* and *E-news*), the website and library and information services.



Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2008

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Audit Report

Deloitte.

To the readers of New Zealand Local Government Association Incorporated's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2008

The Auditor-General is the auditor of New Zealand Local Government Association Incorporated (the Association). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Michael Wilkes, using the staff and resources of Deloitte, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Association on his behalf, for the year ended 31 March 2008.

Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion:

- The financial statements of the Association on pages 17 to 30:
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
 - fairly reflect:
 - the Association's financial position as at 31 March 2008; and
 - the results of its operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
- Based on our examination the Association kept proper accounting records.

The audit was completed on 18 June 2008 and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of the opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the National Council and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

Basis of Opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards.

We planned and performed our audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements did not have material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in the opinion.

The audit involved performing procedures to test the information presented in the financial statements. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

Audit procedures generally include:

- determining whether significant financial and management controls are working and can be relied on to produce complete and accurate data
- verifying samples of transactions and account balances
- performing analyses to identify anomalies in the reported data
- · reviewing significant estimates and judgements made by the National Council
- confirming year-end balances
- determining whether accounting policies are appropriate and consistently applied; and
- determining whether all financial statement disclosures are adequate.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support our opinion above.

Responsibilities of the National Council and the Auditor

The National Council is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the Association as at 31 March 2008 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date. The National Council's responsibilities arise from the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001.

Independence

When carrying out the audit we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Other than the audit and the provision of taxation advice, we have no relationship with or interests in the Association.

Michael Wilkes

Deloitte

On behalf of the Auditor-General

Wellington, New Zealand

Statement of Financial Performance

for the year ended 31 March 2008

		2008	2008 LGITO +	2008	2007	2007 LGITO +	2007
		Core	LOHO +	Local Govt.	Core	LOTTO +	Local Govt.
		Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
	Note	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income							
Subscriptions		3,111,281	80,834	3,192,115	2,862,999	76,919	2,939,918
Grants Received		_	368,911	368,911	-	318,252	318,252
Project Income		1,140,566	4,366	1,144,932	526,404	685	527,089
Conference Income	8	528,003	-	528,003	712,688	-	712,688
Interest		134,199	45,026	179,225	122,410	37,995	160,405
Total Income		4,914,049	499,137	5,413,186	4,224,501	433,851	4,658,352
Expenditure							
Administration Expenses	3	664,974	78,200	743,174	692,405	79,084	771,489
Travel and Accommodation		243,300	15,984	259,284	302,978	12,683	315,661
Grant/Expenses – NZLGA Funds	11	_	11,350	11,350	_	53,494	53,494
Legal Fees		219,713	_	219,713	99,759	_	99,759
Consultants Fees		685,424	3,920	689,344	814,722	(1,450)	813,272
Audit Fees		14,200	4,063	18,263	9,750	2,500	12,250
Depreciation	5	120,106	4,698	124,804	120,412	2,701	123,113
Printing Stationery & Photocopying		202,640	6,419	209,059	173,685	4,855	178,540
Other Operating Expenditure		256,738	79,910	336,648	292,146	103,902	204.040
Conference Expenditure	8	514,941	77,710	514,941	552,271	103,702	396,048 552,271
•	0	314,941	_	314,941	552,271	_	552,271
National Council Remuneration		102,991	_	102,991	79,157	-	79,157
Staff Remuneration		1,753,562	263,157	2,016,719	1,626,503	210,241	1,836,744
Total Expenditure		4,778,589	467,701	5,246,290	4,763,788	468,010	5,231,798
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) Before Taxation		135,460	31,436	166,896	(539,287)	(34,159)	(573,446)
Less Taxation Expense	4(b),11 & 12	41,500	13,752	55,252	37,756	11,553	49,309
Net Surplus/(Deficit) after Taxation		93,960	17,684	111,644	(577,043)	(45,712)	(622,755)

Statement of Movements in Equity

for the year ended 31 March 2008

		2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007
			LGITO +			LGITO +	
		Core		Local Govt.	Core		Local Govt.
		Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
	Note	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Accumulated Funds as at 1 April		318,673	644,197	962,870	955,716	689,909	1,645,625
Net Surplus/(Deficit) After Taxation		93,960	17,684	111,644	(577,043)	(45,712)	(622,755)
Total Recognised Revenue and Expenses		93,960	17,684	111,644	(577,043)	(45,712)	(622,755)
Movement from / (to) Conference Reserves	13	86,938	-	86,938	(60,000)	-	(60,000)
Accumulated Funds as at 31 March		499,571	661,881	1,161,452	318,673	644,197	962,870
Conference Reserves	13	85,062	-	85,062	172,000	-	172,000
Total Equity		584,633	661,881	1,246,514	490,673	644,197	1,134,870

Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 31 March 2008

		2008	2008 LGITO +	2008	2007	2007 LGITO +	2007
		Core Activities	Funds	Local Govt. NZ	Core Activities	Funds	Local Govt. NZ
	Note	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total Accumulated Funds		584,633	661,881	1,246,514	490,673	644,197	1,134,870
Represented By:							
Current Assets							
Petty Cash		250	50	300	250	50	300
Bank		404,221	315,101	719,322	413,771	340,777	754,548
Accrued Interest		3,999	3,864	7,863	3,364	1,266	4,630
Prepayments		28,509	625	29,134	9,529	625	10,154
Sundry Debtors		419,099	31,488	450,587	195,949	83,258	279,207
Provision for Doubtful Debts		(1,913)	-	(1,913)	(6,240)	-	(6,240)
Tax Refund Due	4(a)	618	_	618	6,658	_	6,658
		854,783	351,128	1,205,911	623,281	425,976	1,049,257
Investments							
Term Deposits		625,000	385,000	1,010,000	425,000	270,000	695,000
Shares in Local Government Online Ltd		30,000	_	30,000	30,000	-	30,000
Paintings/Artwork		6,449	_	6,449	6,449	_	6,449
		661,449	385,000	1,046,449	461,449	270,000	731,449
Total Current Assets		1,516,232	736,128	2,252,360	1,084,730	695,976	1,780,706
Fixed Assets	5						
Furniture, Fittings, Office Equipment		237,525	7,807	245,332	324,898	3,713	328,611
Total Fixed Assets		237,525	7,807	245,332	324,898	3,713	328,611
Total Assets		1,753,757	743,935	2,497,692	1,409,628	699,689	2,109,317
Current Liabilities			· · ·				
Sundry Creditors		650,008	54,470	704,478	466,218	37,374	503,592
Mayors Taskforce for Jobs	15	243,244	_	243,244	300,377	_	300,377
Utilities Advisory Group		114,577	_	114,577	49,360	_	49,360
Provision for Holiday Leave		86,045	14,515	100,560	103,000	10,772	113,772
Deferred Income		75,250	_	75,250	_	-	_
Tax Payable		-	13,069	13,069	-	7,346	7,346
Total Current Liabilities		1,169,124	82,054	1,251,178	918,955	55,492	974,447
Total Liabilities		1,169,124	82,054	1,251,178	918,955	55,492	974,447
Excess of Assets over Liabilities		584,633	661,881	1,246,514	490,673	644,197	1,134,870

For and on behalf of the National Council

B Morrison - President Date: 18 June 2008

E Bowen – Chief Executive

Date: 18 June 2008

The Notes to the Financial Statements form part of, and should be read in conjuction with these statements

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 March 2008

		2008	2008 LGITO +	2008	2007	2007 LGITO +	2007
		Core	EGITO 1	Local Govt.	Core	LOTTO	Local Govt.
		Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
On the Flance frame	Note	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities							
Cash was Provided from:							
Subscriptions and Cost Recoveries Received		4,627,992	498,074	5,126,066	4,123,469	381,485	4,504,954
Interest Received		133,564	42,428	175,992	126,911	40,187	167,098
GST Received/(Paid)		36,984	16,497	53,481	(13,861)	231	(13,630)
		4,798,540	556,999	5,355,539	4,236,519	421,903	4,658,422
Cash was Applied to:							
Payments to Suppliers							
and Employees		4,539,897	450,854	4,990,751	4,478,900	451,082	4,929,982
Income Tax Paid		35,460	8,029	43,489	43,239	11,002	54,241
		4,575,357	458,883	5,034,240	4,522,139	462,084	4,984,223
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	7	223,183	98,116	321,299	(285,620)	(40,181)	(325,801)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities							
Cash was Applied to:							
Purchase of Fixed Assets		32,733	8,792	41,525	189,197	-	189,197
		32,733	8,792	41,525	189,197	-	189,197
Net Cash (Outflow) from Investing Activities		(32,733)	(8,792)	(41,525)	(189,197)	-	(189,197)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		190,450	89,324	279,774	(474,817)	(40,181)	(514,998)
Opening Cash Balance as at 1 April		839,021	610,827	1,449,848	1,313,838	651,008	1,964,846
Closing Cash Balance as at 31 March		1,029,471	700,151	1,729,622	839,021	610,827	1,449,848
Being:							
Petty Cash		250	50	300	250	50	300
Bank		404,221	315,101	719,322	413,771	340,777	754,548
Term Deposits		625,000	385,000	1,010,000	425,000	270,000	695,000
		1,029,471	700,151	1,729,622	839,021	610,827	1,449,848

The Notes to the Financial Statements form part of, and should be read in conjuction with these statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2008

Note 1

Nature of Activities

The New Zealand Local Government Association Incorporated trades as *Local Government New Zealand*. *Local Government New Zealand* represents local authorities in promoting the national interests of local government. These financial statements have been presented to show the day to day operations of *Local Government New Zealand* ("Core Activities") together with the activities of Local Government Industry Training Organisation (LGITO), a division of *Local Government New Zealand*, and various specific funds that are held by *Local Government New Zealand* for specific purposes ("LGITO and Funds").

Note 2

Statement of Accounting Policies

General Accounting Policies

These financial statements for *Local Government New Zealand* have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

Accrual accounting is used to match expenses and revenue. The measurement system adopted is that of historical cost.

Particular Accounting Policies

The following particular accounting policies which materially affect the measurement of financial performance and financial position have been applied.

- (a) Investment Income is accounted for on an accrual basis.
- (b) Fixed Assets are shown at cost less accumulated depreciation.

These assets have been depreciated on a straight line and diminishing value basis at rates which are anticipated to write them off over their estimated useful lives.

Telephone System 3 years Furniture, Fittings, Office Equipment 3 to 9 years

Computer Software 40% Diminishing Value

- (c) Sundry Debtors have been valued at expected net realisable value.
- (d) Taxation The liability method of accounting for taxation is applied on a comprehensive basis. Local Government New Zealand is exempt from tax for all income except interest.
- (e) The Conference hosted by *Local Government New Zealand* is disclosed on a gross basis in the Statement of Financial Performance (refer Note 8).
- (f) Funding received for special projects is not recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance until the requirements of the funding agreement have been met. Funding received for which the requirements have not been met at balance date is shown as deferred income in the Statement of Financial Position.
- (g) Investments are stated at cost price.

Comparative Information

Certain comparatives within note 5 have been amended to ensure comparability with current year disclosures.

These changes do not have an effect on the reported surplus.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the year. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with last year.

Note 3
Expenditure

Included in the Administration expenses are the following expenses:

	2008	2008 LGITO +	2008	2007	2007 LGITO +	2007
	Core		Local Govt.	Core		Local Govt.
	Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
Rental Expense	133,704	24,067	157,771	133,704	18,189	151,893
Telephone and Tolls	65,297	4,647	69,944	62,334	4,518	66,852
Maintenance	13,362	151	13,513	13,217	35	13,252
Computer Outsourcing	84,422	-	84,422	78,251	-	78,251
Staff Recruitment & Training	97,883	-	97,883	121,484	-	121,484
Bad Debts	1,700	-	1,700	5,547	6,597	12,144
Temporary Staff	10,599	-	10,599	13,795	-	13,795
Insurance	29,937	257	30,194	30,201	257	30,458
Subscriptions – Local Organisations	11,477	-	11,477	22,171	-	22,171
Other	216,593	49,078	265,671	211,701	49,488	261,189
Total	664,974	78,200	743,174	692,405	79,084	771,489

Note 4

Taxation

(a) The tax refund is a result of the tax provision for the current year being less than the provisional tax paid for 2006/07.

(b) Taxation Expense

	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007
		LGITO +			LGITO +	
	Core		Local Govt.	Core		Local Govt.
	Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
Interest Income Earned	134,199	45,026	179,225	122,410	37,995	160,405
Less Deductions						
Standard Exemption	(897)	(1,103)	(2,000)	(913)	(1,087)	(2,000)
Deduction on Interest Income	(7,544)	(2,251)	(9,795)	(7,084)	(1,900)	(8,984)
Total Taxable Income	125,758	41,672	167,430	114,413	35,008	149,421
Taxation Expense @ 33%	41,500	13,752	55,252	37,756	11,553	49,309

Note 5
Fixed Assets

	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007
		LGITO +			LGITO +	
	Core		Local Govt.	Core		Local Govt.
	Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
Fixed Assets at cost	1,112,803	25,057	1,137,860	1,080,070	16,265	1,096,335
less Accumulated Depreciation	(755,172)	(12,552)	(767,724)	(634,760)	(9,851)	(644,611)
	357,631	12,505	370,136	445,310	6,414	451,724
less Depreciation	(120,106)	(4,698)	(124,804)	(120,412)	(2,701)	(123,113)
Book Value	237,525	7,807	245,332	324,898	3,713	328,611
Total Fixed Assets	237,525	7,807	245,332	324,898	3,713	328,611

Note 6 Operating Lease Commitments

The future minimum rental payments not provided for in these financial statements are as follows:

	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007
		LGITO +			LGITO +	
	Core		Local Govt.	Core		Local Govt.
	Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
not later than one year	151,100	6,000	157,100	174,472	6,000	180,472
later than one year but not later than two years	135,154	-	135,154	151,100	-	151,100
later than two years but not later than five years	189,414	-	189,414	324,568	-	324,568
later than five years	_	-	-	_	-	
	475,668	6,000	481,668	650,140	6,000	656,140

Note 7
Reconciliation of Statement of Cash Flows to Operating Surplus/(Deficit)

	2008	2008 LGITO +	2008	2007	2007 LGITO +	2007
	Core		Local Govt.	Core		Local Govt.
	Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
Reported Surplus/(Deficit) after Taxation	93,960	17,684	111,644	(577,043)	(45,712)	(622,755)
Add non-cash items						
Depreciation	120,106	4,698	124,804	120,412	2,701	123,113
Conference Reserves Contribution	-	-	-	(100,000)	-	(100,000)
Add/(Less) movements in other working capital items						
Sundry debtors, prepayments	(274,460)	49,572	(224,888)	185,924	(15,936)	169,988
Sundry creditors, deferred income and other items	250,169	14,386	264,555	102,061	14,657	116,718
Accrued Interest	(635)	(2,598)	(3,233)	4,501	2,192	6,693
Taxation (Receivable)/Payable	6,040	5,723	11,763	(5,483)	551	(4,932)
GST	28,003	8,651	36,654	(15,992)	1,366	(14,626)
	9,117	75,734	84,851	271,011	2,830	273,841
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	223,183	98,116	321,299	(285,620)	(40,181)	(325,801)

Conference

	2008	2008 LGITO +	2008	2007	2007 LGITO +	2007
	Core		Local Govt.	Core		Local Govt.
	Activities	Funds	NZ	Activities	Funds	NZ
Registration and Sponsorship Income	528,003	-	528,003	612,688	-	612,688
Contribution from LGNZ Conference Reserves	-	_	-	100,000	-	_
	528,003	-	528,003	712,688	-	612,688
Less: Direct Expenses	514,941	-	514,941	552,271	-	552,271
	13,062	-	13,062	160,417	-	160,417
Less: Staff Salaries and Overheads*	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-	100,000
Surplus	(86,938)	-	(86,938)	60,417	-	60,417

^{*} Staff Salaries and Overheads have been recorded in Administrative Expenses in the Statement of Financial Performance. These relate to costs directly paid by *Local Government New Zealand* as part of its operation.

Financial Instruments

Financial Assets and Liabilities

The carrying amounts of all balance sheet financial assets and liabilities are considered to be equivalent to their fair value.

Credit Risk

Financial instruments which potentially subject *Local Government New Zealand* to a credit risk consist principally of cash and interest bearing deposits.

Local Government New Zealand does not require collateral or other security to support financial instruments with credit risk and as such, no collateral exists for any of the investments held by Local Government New Zealand. The maximum credit risk exposure is the carrying amount of the individual investments and receivables.

Local Government New Zealand has placed interest bearing deposits with Financial Institutions of high credit worthiness.

Interest Rate Risk

Local Government New Zealand is exposed to interest rate risk in that interest rate movements will affect cash flows and the market value of fixed interest investments.

The effective interest rate and maturities of financial instruments are as follows:

	Effective	Maturity	Maturity	Effective	Maturity	Maturity
	Interest	Date	Value	Interest	Date	Value
	Rate			Rate		
Asset	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007
Term Cash Deposits:						
ANZ Banking Group	8.28%	02/04/2008	\$215,000	7.61%	11/04/2007	\$225,000
Term Cash Deposits:						
ANZ Banking Group	8.56%	02/04/2008	\$95,000	-	-	-
Term Cash Deposits: BNZ	8.45%	10/04/2008	\$155,000	-	-	-
Term Cash Deposits: Westpac	8.30%	09/04/2008	\$80,000	7.69%	18/04/2007	\$200,000
Term Cash Deposits: Westpac	8.59%	16/04/2008	\$80,000	-	-	-
Bank: ANZ Banking Group	0-8.00%	Call	\$344,529	0-7.50%	Call	\$394,088
Multiple Deposit Account:						
Westpac	4.90%	Call	\$228,040	4.90%	Call	\$235,284
Bank: Westpac	0–1.75%	Call	\$3,696	0-1.75%	Call	\$3,796
Bank: National	0–1.75%	Call	\$59,693	0–1.75%	Call	\$1,768

Honoraria of National Council Members

Honoraria paid to National Council Members during the year ended 31 March 2008 amounted to \$102,991 (2007: \$79,157). This was made up of the Honoraria paid to the President \$78,710 (2007:\$61,108) and the Vice-President \$24,281 (2007:\$18,049). No other monetary remuneration was paid to members of the National Council for their services.

Honoraria paid by LGITO during the year ended 31 March 2008 amounted to \$16,477 (2007: \$15,683).

No other remuneration was paid to board members.

Note 11

New Zealand Local Government Association Funds

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 March 2008

		2008	8			200	7	
	Interest	Grants/	Taxation		Interest	Grants/	Taxation	
	Income	Expenses	Expense	Surplus	Income	Expenses	Expense	Surplus
Funds	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Regional Government								
Association Fund	12,001	(100)	(3,736)	8,165	8,947	(56)	(2,783)	6,108
Bertlesmann Award Fund	3,452	(11,250)	(1,075)	(8,873)	2,600	(53,438)	(809)	(51,647)
	15,453	(11,350)	(4,811)	(708)	11,547	(53,494)	(3,592)	(45,539)

Statement of Movements In Funds for the year ended 31 March 2008

	Funds		Funds
	1 April	Surplus	31 March
	2007	after tax	2008
Regional Government Association Fund	182,685	8,165	190,850
Bertlesmann Award Fund	41,248	(8,873)	32,375
	223,933	(708)	223,225

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2008

Funds	2008	2007
Regional Government Association Fund	190,850	182,685
Bertlesmann Award Fund	32,375	41,248
Accumulated Funds	223,225	223,933
Represented by:		
Current Assets		
Bank - Westpac	231,737	221,170
Sundry Debtors	2,763	1,852
Total Assets	234,500	223,022
Current Liabilities		
Sundry Creditors	11,250	-
Tax Payable	25	(911)
Total Liabilities	11,275	(911)
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	223,225	223,933

Description of Funds' Activities

The following funds are managed by Local Government New Zealand:

> New Zealand Counties Association History Fund & Municipal Association of New Zealand History Fund

These funds were, following resolution of the National Council, amalgamated into the Core Activities of *Local Government New Zealand*.

> Regional Government Association Fund

At the meeting of the Regional Government Association on 1 December 1995 it was resolved the funds of the Association be transferred to the New Zealand Local Government Association to facilitate the winding up of the Association and in anticipation of a decision on the use of the funds.

> Bertlesmann Award Fund

Funds were received from Christchurch City Council being a portion of their Bertlesmann Award received from the Bertlesmann Foundation in 1993. It is intended that these funds go towards supporting and funding research into innovative approaches to local government that enhance effective governance and encourage best practice.

Local Government Industry Training Organisation

The primary objective of the LGITO is to develop and implement training and qualification needs for the sector.

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 March 2008

	2008	2007
Income	483,685	422,304
Less: Expenditure	456,350	414,516
Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Taxation	27,335	7,788
Taxation	8,941	7,961
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	18,394	(173)

Statement of Movements in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2008

Equity as at 31 March	438,659	420,265
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	18,394	(173)
Opening Balance	420,265	420,438
	2008	2007

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2008

	2008	2007
Total Equity	438,659	420,265
Represented by:		
Assets	502,983	476,668
Less: Liabilities	64,324	56,403
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	438,659	420,265

Note 13

Conference Retained Earnings

National Council has approved the setting aside of accumulated surpluses generated from the Conference which is to be used to reduce the cost of future Conferences.

	2008	2007
Opening Balance	172,000	212,000
Contribution to Conference	-	(100,000)
Conference Surplus	(86,938)	60,000
Closing Balance	85,062	172,000

Related Parties

Local Government New Zealand received an administration fee of \$9,000 (2007: \$9,000) from the Local Government Rural Trust.

Note 15

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs is a separately funded operation which uses *Local Government New Zealand's* financial human resources for its accounting. All receipt of income and payment of expenses and grants, although separately accounted for, are recorded through *Local Government New Zealand's* bank account.

At balance date, a total of \$243,244 (2007 \$300,377) was held on account of the entity, in ANZ and Westpac term deposits and in *Local Government New Zealand's* ANZ current account.

	2008	2007	
Opening Balance	300,377	81,909	
Grants Received from The Tindall Foundation	100,000	767,000	
Other Income	334,255	296,338	
Total Income	434,255	1,063,338	
Grants Paid for employment projects	(220,000)	(572,500)	
Other Expenses	(271,387)	(272,371)	
Total Expenditure	(491,387)	(844,871)	
Closing Balance	243,244	300,377	

Local Government New Zealand Staff

(as at 31 March 2008)

Eugene Bowen Chief Executive

Chief Executive's Team

Jan Horan Personal Assistant to the

Chief Executive / Office Manager

Christine Northover Receptionist

Leeanne Brewerton Human Resources Manager*

Bridgette Connor Internal Governance Manager

Governance Team

Mike Reid Manager

Victoria Owen Senior Policy Analyst

Chrissy MacDonald Personal Assistant

Development and Infrastructure Team

Geoff Swainson Manager

Colin Drew Senior Policy Analyst

Phillip EylesPolicy Analyst+Christine MakumbePolicy Analyst

Carla Krejcisz Personal Assistant

Environment and Regulatory Team

Irene Clarke Manager

Kate Barker Senior Policy Analyst

Vacant Policy Analyst

Natasha Bava Personal Assistant

Communications Team

Kirsty Anderson Manager

Charlotte Brown Communications Advisor

Sandra Scrimshaw Events and Team Co-ordinator

Srimathi Mathavan Information Centre Manager

Sam Hou Library Assistant

⁺ shared staff member with the Environment and Regulatory team

^{*} part time

114-118 Lambton Quay Wellington 6011

PO Box 1214 Wellington 6140 New Zealand

P: 64 4 9241200 F: 64 4 9241230

www.lgnz.co.nz

