



Good key messages at local govt meeting

MAKING things happen within communities was the key message for Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna at this year's Local Government conference.

Mr Hanna was one of 500 delegates at the annual meeting held in Queenstown from July 16-17 and says the high profile guest speakers, including Sir Graham Henry, at the event had some useful tips for councils.

But it was former Australian Victoria Premier John Brumby's speech that was the standout for him.

"John Brumby was an exceptional speaker," says Mr Hanna.

"He talked about making things happen within communities and how to invigorate them."

"Mr Brumby also made key points about amalgamation saying unless councils are strategically aligned with one another it's going to be a struggle."

Mr Hanna says amalgamation is not a topic his council is considering, so Mr Brumby's speech on the issue was worth listening to.

"Unless the communities give the green light then there is no need to merge."

"Councils should consider all the options and benefits of amalgamation before taking that step to combine."

He believes the 2012 conference, was better than those held in previous years not only because of the calibre of speakers, but also because it allowed greater discussion among mayors, councillors and senior managers.

Mr Hanna says mayors from around New Zealand had a lot to say on the local government reform with the Government proposing to scrap the four community wellbeings of social, financial, cultural and environmental.

"It was good to see mayors taking a stand against the reform and we all agree that we need our four wellbeings in legislation" says Mr Hanna.

"We are not happy with the Government's proposal to get rid of them."

"They help shape councils and give us an idea of how to cater for the community."

IPANZ CONFERENCE

Mr Hanna will attend a conference by the Institute of Public Administration New Zealand (IPANZ) in Karapiro next month which has been organised to help drive discussion on the future shape of local government in the Waikato.

Otorohanga mayor Dale Williams' views on the LGC are contained in his monthly 'In My View' column on P2.

STANDOUT SPEAKERS: Waitomo mayor Brian Hanna says this year's Local Government conference speakers gave plenty of food for thought. FILE PIC

Green waste service is now available

From the 1 June 2012, Waitomo District Council (WDC) is trialling a green waste service at the Piopio Transfer Station for a six (6) month period. The facility will accept for a small charge - grasses, leaves, weeds and tree branches up to approx 400mm in diameter.

Waitomo District Council conducts an annual Resident Satisfaction Survey for the delivery of its services and results from the 2011 Survey showed one of the main concerns raised by residents was there was no recycling facilities for green waste at any rural transfer stations. Improving on this result is one of the key actions planned by Waitomo District Council through the Solid Waste Management and Minimisation 2012-2015 Plan (SWaMMP).



Although we encourage residents to undertake home composting, in many cases households do not have a home composting process in place so by providing a green waste service, WDC encourages residents of the Piopio area to dispose of the green waste in an environmentally safe manner.

A similar facility was trialled at the Waitomo District Landfill and over the last year has received 330 tonnes of green waste all of which was made into mulch making the service a great success. The mulch is available for sale from the Landfill.

For further information about the trial of the Green Waste Service at Piopio Transfer Station, please contact Liz Riley, Leader - Solid Waste.

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