

Water New Zealand (New Zealand Water & Wastes Association Incorporated)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

Water New Zealand's constitutional purpose is to be the pre-eminent organisation in New Zealand for promoting and enabling sustainable management and development of the water environment. Four objects sit under that purpose. To paraphrase these, we aim to promote sound policies on water; to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, goods and services to meet the needs of our members; and benefit society by promoting a better understanding of, and taking a lead on, water matters.

It is a broad mandate and here is a snapshot of what we have achieved on each of these areas over the last twelve months.

POLICY

The past year has seen continued public policy formulation on water matters. Its improved management sits close to the top of the government's political agenda. Water New Zealand has been closely involved in many aspects of policy development during the year.

The collaborative approach adopted by the government in 2009 continued, with Water New Zealand being part of the Land and Water Forum. The Forum made 53 recommendations on improved water management in its report in September last year. Following a series of engagement meetings held round the country over the next six months, where the recommendations were road tested, the Forum reported back to Ministers in April this year. Its recommendations were unchanged.

The Government has responded with a work programme aimed at setting and managing limits on water quality and quantity, and considering options for revised governance arrangements. The Land and Water Forum has been reconvened to provide advice on these matters and WNZ continues to participate with this work.

As part of its work programme during the year the Board reviewed and ratified a number of policies including how positions are developed. These sit on our website in the public domain. Amongst them we confirm that Water New Zealand supports public ownership of urban water infrastructure.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

We continue to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, goods and services via our events programme, our hard and electronic publications, and our internal networks. It has been another solid year. Our conferencing programme was successful as were our publications, both in terms of content and financial performance.

Another round of our national performance review was completed successfully, this year with more participants.

The Water Services Managers Group, our Special Interests Groups and the Senior Executive's Forum have continued with their work programmes. We continue to put forward members to work on Standards New Zealand Committees developing new and revising and upgrading existing standards.

LEADERSHIP AND SOCIETY

With a diverse membership base drawn from all quadrants of the water industry Water New Zealand has to take a considered course in exercising its leadership role in society. An agenda for change in the way water is being managed is gaining momentum and it is important that Water New Zealand is engaged and informs this debate and that this is being achieved through using the collective knowledge of members.

GOVERNANCE

Over the past 12 months the Board has worked at applying principles of good governance. We meet every two months, working to an annual work programme under five headings; strategy, finance, constitution/governance, leadership/liason and management. This year we have invited a SIG chair to attend each board meeting to improve communication with these very important groups. The demands on our volunteer Board members are large. They work assiduously for the betterment of Water New Zealand. I thank my fellow Board members for their contributions during the past 12 months and their employers who grant them the opportunity to do so.

NAME CHANGE

At the last annual general meeting members voted to change the legal name of the Association to Water New Zealand Incorporated. The Registrar of Incorporated Societies has declined the use of this name on the basis that it resembles that of an existing company, Water New Zealand Limited. Accordingly the members' resolution to change the legal name of the association cannot be actioned.

The Board has considered its options and decided that we should continue under our current legal name of New Zealand Water and Wastes Association trading as Water New Zealand. While our advice is that there is no obstacle to the Association using the trading name 'Water New Zealand' for its activities, we have taken steps to protect it by applying to the Intellectual Property Office (IPONZ) to register our logo as a trademark. This incorporates the trading name. This application has been formally accepted by IPONZ for registration on the New Zealand Register and is now in a notification period.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Water New Zealand has solid staff resource. During the year they have continued to support our members, the SIGs, researching and developing policy, networking with associated organisations, delivering conferences and functions, and using our scarce resources wisely.

Lastly I thank members for giving me the opportunity to serve them over the past year as President of the Association.

Clive Rundle

President