

Council

**Wednesday, 18 December 2002
Commencing at 4.30 pm**

PART A

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN,
WAITAKERE CITY, ON WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2002,
COMMENCING AT 4.30 PM.**

PART A - REPORT OF THE MAYOR

METHAMPHETAMINES IN WAITAKERE CITY AND THE POLICE RESPONSE

I am sure Councillors and our community board network have had strong feedback over the last two months as the media refer to Waitakere (West Auckland) as the "methamphetamine capital of New Zealand". I loathe put-down tags as much as I loathe the culture that hides away in baches, caravans, motels and garden sheds feeding and destroying lives through new-generation drugs.

This report provides a background and will be part of a presentation at Council that will signal my own personal leadership commitment to join with Waitakere Police in removing this business from our City and the lives of its people. We have done it before on graffiti through spray cans, and I ask you to support me and our Police in giving this life-destroying product the heave-ho from Waitakere.

Please get angry about this. And please do not pretend that it does not concern you, our families and our community. It does, it is real. We have anguished over youth suicide and domestic violence and want to do something about them but find ourselves sometimes powerless, well believe me my colleagues this is something we can deal to. Not single-handedly but collectively and in a partnership with our community.

A BACKGROUND

In recent publicity and in anecdotal evidence from Waitakere District Police, it has become increasingly clear that this City has a major problem with the production and consumption of methamphetamines, commonly known as Speed.

In talking with Police, it is clear that there is a criminal element in Waitakere heavily involved in the 'shopping': the manufacture and distribution of Methamphetamine. 'Shopping' is a term used to describe the active seeking of the precursor substances required as a base for the manufacturing process. This base is known as Pseudoephedrine and is commonly available in 'over the counter' cough and flu remedies from Pharmacies nationwide. These remedies include Sudafed, Telfast and Actifed to name a few. Generally speaking you cannot manufacture Methamphetamine without Pseudoephedrine.

These tablets or liquids are then forwarded to a 'cook'. A 'cook' is the person who carries out the manufacture. A variety of stages are followed and the result is pure (85%+) Methamphetamine. This finished product is then distributed, costing \$80-150 for 1/10th of a gram.

In my conversations with police it is strongly indicated that the extent of 'shopping' in West Auckland is huge. Although the Police and Pharmacies have placed some restrictions on the sale of the precursor ingredient drugs, it is still a major problem. When people cannot 'buy' the precursors, they try to obtain them fraudulently (false prescriptions etc.), and when this fails we are seeing Pharmacies hit by burglaries and aggravated robberies.



A box of 30 Sudafed tablets can fetch up to \$80 (\$13 retail) on the black market.

From what I am told, the identified increase in Methamphetamine manufacture in Waitakere is 450% on last year. Waitakere had four clandestine Methamphetamine laboratories located by local Police last calendar year, but for 2002 they have had 18. It is quite possible that Waitakere only has this high number because Waitakere Police actively 'look' for clandestine laboratories. People are using methamphetamine across the board.

CRIMINAL DANGER OF METHAMPHETAMINE USE

The pharmacists are being intimidated, burgled and robbed for the base ingredients. Police are seeing an increase of firearms used in the protection of the Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratories. The chemicals used in the manufacturing process are very volatile, (Sulphuric Acid, Red Phosphorous etc) and pose a biological and explosive threat to the community and environment. Users high on Methamphetamine exhibit paranoia, super-human strength and psychosis. Users can be 'high' for up to two days.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COMBATING METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION

On the extreme end of the scale, the Council could consider what powers it has to ban or remove all items containing Pseudoephedrine from sale in Waitakere. We may also consider what council facilities would be able to assist in educating the general public about the dangers of the drug. We could also lobby Government to make Methamphetamine Class A instead of Class B and thereby give Police powers of search without warrant, since the Police currently have no power to search without warrant for Methamphetamine. However I would ask that you consider the following recommendations on the matter. It follows the "broken windows" policy of New York, in which *even a broken window was investigated, and not tolerated*.

Let's start getting serious. The Police presentation that follows this report will ask for real and tangible help from this Council in the same way that our retailers made spray cans unavailable to anyone under eighteen. Let's talk to our rental and real estate industry. Let's find out who rents in our remote areas. Let's set up a cleanup campaign against labs by acknowledging that they do exist in deserted baches in our coastal settlements and let's start putting the responsibility on our motel owners, caravans, garden sheds, and hideaways. It is going to take a big effort, but it will work.

This isn't going to continue in Waitakere.

1. That the Chief Executive consider warranting Council parking wardens to enforce graffiti violations, litter violations and the breaking of other relevant by-laws.
2. That the Chief Executive permit Council facilities such as libraries or Citizens Advice Bureaux to hold and distribute information warning of the dangers of methamphetamine use.
3. That the Council write to the Minister of Police and Minister of Health informing them that we have declared war on methamphetamine use and production within Waitakere City, and we require assistance and support to curtail and destroy this insidious, life-threatening product.

A presentation will include an overview by Inspector Scott Fergusson of Waitakere Police.



AN INITIAL VIEW ON WHENUAPAI

At the full Council meeting of November 2002, the Council resolved:

That Waitakere City Council support Whenuapai Air Base being retained as an airport in order to strengthen the civil emergency capability of the Auckland region and that this support be forwarded to government for their consideration and to the Auckland Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group for their support.

3353/2002

That the Council request the Government to retain an operational defence and maritime surveillance Air Force capability at the Whenuapai Air base in order to retain an Air Force presence in the Auckland region.

3354/2002

On December 9 2002, just over a week after that Council meeting, the Crown signalled that it would completely withdraw the New Zealand Air Force from Whenuapai over a five-year period. Like the Crown's decision to close Hobsonville, it is a decision that has been well foreshadowed, so it will hardly be a shock.

However this is the second blow to the economy and social fabric of the north-west region from the Crown in less than two years. The loss of what has been estimated to be over \$60 million and 1,100 jobs from a regional economy will be a significant blow to local schools, retail shops, servicing industries such as engineering and maintenance works, and to the social infrastructure of volunteer groups, sports groups and community well-being. The New Zealand Defence Forces have served this City well, and I would hope that the City will provide a creative and permanent reminder of their presence and service in the City and region that they have offered for much of the twentieth century, and so I would ask that you support:

1. That the Chief Executive be instructed to work with the Commander of the New Zealand Defence Forces or relevant officer of the New Zealand Defence Forces together with all relevant Returned Service Associations of the Hobsonville and Whenuapai air bases to ensure that a fitting physical memorial to their service to the City and nation is constructed and maintained within Waitakere City.
2. That Waitakere City Council support and promote the development potential of commercial activities at Whenuapai in the interests of wider economic development in a manner consistent with the growth objectives of the City.

A leading strategic priority for Waitakere City Council in the 2001/2002 Annual Plan is:

- "A strong local economy and more local jobs."

This Council is faced with economic development deficits and opportunities in a number of areas, including particularly New Lynn and Henderson as township revitalisation, and in Lincoln Road and Henderson Valley as commercial and industrial revitalisation. The challenges we now face in the north west are even greater.

We are making final decisions about key capital spend in Henderson and New Lynn that will act as economic "levers" and "magnets", providing significant confidence and leadership to developers, consumers, and citizens.

As a Council we are acting with style, and making a significant difference. The time scale that Councils operate on as both planners and leaders mean that public capital works such as sports complexes and other major developments have a triple bottom line development effect that is only seen on the skyline three to five years later. The signs that we see all around us now of growth and confidence will be seen manifold in only a few years, and so I would urge Council to act boldly and on a significant scale, as it has already in this term.



Over the next five years, we will see an increasing divergence in kinds of economic growth and opportunity. Town centre revitalisation will - as planned many years ago - be concentrated in New Lynn and Henderson, together with a number of other smaller centres, with their own design, economic, social and environmental characteristics.

But, as I signalled in the June 2002 Mayoral Report, it is in the north-west that Waitakere will see its greatest growth in population, infrastructure need, civic facility need, and in economic development. This divergence of kinds of economic growth between the town centres and the north west presents the Council with an historic opportunity to get it right.

A century of development in the western areas of the wider Auckland region have seen small centres with little commercial or industrial base joined together after World War Two by massive sprawling suburbanisation. This continues to cost Waitakere City's citizens and its Council in so many ways. The withdrawal by the New Zealand Defence Forces from Hobsonville and Whenuapai in the space of a few years gives this City a chance to totally change the way this City grows.

Instead of small town centres with masses of suburbs and their cars clogging the motorways, leaving a comparative desert of employment opportunity and civic amenity, the Hobsonville and Whenuapai land together offer us all a chance to act boldly, and establish the commercial and industrial centres without necessarily shifting the Metropolitan Urban Limit and inviting untrammelled real estate carve-ups. We can establish the heart and economic base first, and phase in housing growth when we are ready.

Whatever the future of Whenuapai, we must at very least promise the people of the area that we will not allow the Crown to simply strip away the social and economic infrastructure of a region. We will work to see prosperity, social cohesion, and a real future for the wider area. That is my personal promise, and I hope that it is one that the Council can make for those affected as well. Specifically about the City's interest in Whenuapai air base, we should act to protect our options immediately, and have the substantive debate on which option is taken up later. And so I ask you to support the following recommendations:

1. That Waitakere City Council request that the Chief Executive ensure that any future development of the Whenuapai air base not preclude it functioning as a functioning commercial air port.
2. That Waitakere City Council maintain an option for a shareholding interest in any airport company that may be created to operate Whenuapai air base.
3. That Waitakere City Council recognise the sensitivity of the upper Waitemata Harbour, and provide for sustainable water management based on the principles of the *Water Cycle Strategy*.
4. That Waitakere City Council in its approach to the development of Whenuapai recognise Council's commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.
5. That Waitakere City Council recognise the potential of the Whenuapai air base as a model of sustainable development particularly in relationship to sustainable economic development and efficient use of energy.
6. That Waitakere City Council ensures a fair allocation of the costs of providing infrastructure and public assets in the development of Whenuapai airbase.

But that is the minimum we should strive for. Just as we are operating on a hitherto unheard of scale in our civic projects within the town centres, so also we must press on with a similar scale in Hobsonville and Whenuapai. The challenges and opportunities are simply too large to deal with on a piecemeal basis.



Equally, I will simply not allow great amounts of staff time and Council resource to be devoted into significant projects in the northwest if the Crown - as I believe the Crown has done with Hobsonville - is going to stymie a well-considered idea. Long before the decision by Housing New Zealand to step in and take an option over the whole of the Hobsonville site, I directly asked the government to work with us on a comprehensive plan that included education, Police, motorway infrastructure, housing, economic development, health needs, economic development and below-ground infrastructure. While I am committed to working with Housing New Zealand on a comprehensive approach to public housing over the City, I am singularly unimpressed with the lack of cohesion the Crown is showing in its actions in closing such significant assets for Waitakere and for the Auckland region without providing a coordinated approach to the civic, social and economic deficit they are leaving. We will go into Whenuapai with all the lessons of Hobsonville clear on our minds. I would ask that the Council consider the following recommendations:

1. That Waitakere City Council in its approach to the development of the wider Northern Regional Strategic Growth Area give priority to land uses that promote economic development.
2. That Council requests that the New Zealand Defence Force or other Crown entity retain ownership of the Whenuapai Airbase Land for the foreseeable future to ensure the long term potential of the air base as an operating airport is retained.
3. That the Chief Executive be authorised to cement in place strategic alliances to achieve the aims of recommendations 5 to 14.

The Crown has now indicated that it will vacate the base within the next five years in a managed transition. The likely processes for this transition are unknown at this stage, as the Crown has not released them. It is important that Council is in a position to act positively to any formalised decisions and processes set in train by the New Zealand Defence Forces.

I enclose below some initial information on the current status of the base.

METROPOLITAN URBAN LIMIT

The Whenuapai Airbase currently sits outside the Metropolitan Urban Limit as prescribed in the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and is zoned Countryside Living Environment under the Waitakere City Proposed District Plan. The North Western Sector agreement states:

Section 4.5 "Future of Former Airbase Land and Remaining Airfield" states the following:

Agreed Principles

Sector Partners will:

1. *Recognise Hobsonville as a strategic area for employment.*
2. *Ensure that any future development enhances the strategic accessibility of the Hobsonville site.*
3. *Recognise the current role of Whenuapai as a military airbase and keep options open for its future use.*
4. *Recognise the current role of Dairy Flat and Parakai as high volume, private airfields.*



Agreed Actions

Territorial Authorities in the Northern and Western Sectors will:

1. *Consult each other regarding any changes to the status of development proposals for Hobsonville, Whenuapai, Parakai and Dairy Flat.*

Territorial Authorities in the Northern and Western Sectors will jointly:

2. *Investigate options for the future use of Whenuapai airbase taking into account their feasibility and potential positive and negative effects.*

The Mayoral Taskforce on Whenuapai will report back to the City Development Committee, through a written report from myself, but I felt it necessary after the Crown's announcement. I will provide a fuller written report back to the February 2003 meeting of the City Development Committee.

HOBSONVILLE ENHANCEMENT

The cultural heritage of the Hobsonville area must be maintained during this time of transformation and development of the area. If we have lost the oldest house in the area due to motorway encroachment we haven't lost the ability to save an extraordinary historic site. They are: the Clark Homestead. This unique house built for Rice Owen Clark and now owned by the New Zealand Air Force, is in Clark Road Hobsonville, a two story grand mansion enhanced by richly glazed ceramic blocks, mosaic surround and many other stunning features. It is one of this City's most treasured and little known buildings. It stood above Limeburner's Bay - then almost wall-to-wall with clay pipe and tile manufacturing industries. Rice Owen Clark had a religious fervour and he preached in settler's drawing rooms throughout the district. As his ministry grew, he found that he needed a church, and raising money from his housebound parishioners, he built the church, which still stands in Scott Road. This forgotten small, beautiful church and graveyard also needs attention.

The remarkable and engrossing story of Owen Clark and his wife Louisa's relationship with early New Zealand is told in Dick Scott's *Fire on the Clay*. It was Clark's son Edwin and Rice Owen Clark junior who started the four-generational pottery industry. By 1885, the Clark yard was producing 60,000 bricks a week.

Why am relating all of this to you? It is in acknowledgement of the kind offer of my old and good friend Sir Thomas Clark to be involved in the acquisition of his family house for this City.

May I suggest that the Council support a trust already in existence to manage the Clark homestead. The Trust that I ask the Council to support tonight is New Zealand Ceramic Heritage Trust, Chaired by the renowned pottery historian Mr Howard Williams. I have spoken with Mr Williams and he suggests that Sir Tom Clark becomes patron and that the Trust selects a group of high profile individuals to bring together the ceramic collections that already exist in the community for display and demonstrations. It will be a great destination.

1. That the Council endorse the use of the Clark Homestead as a national ceramic museum by Sir Tom Clark and Howard Williams, and that they be asked to bring the project together for the February meeting of Council.

This opportunity comes once in our lifetime, and with Sir Tom willing to assist this project become a reality, it will.



CHRISTMAS GOODWILL

Last Christmas as a Council we hardly knew each other. We had been elected a mere six weeks or so. But over the last year we have become one of the hardest working Councils in the region and I believe one of the most successful in New Zealand. Give yourself a Christmas thank you for delivering for this community the foundations and the first couple of floors of a great and flourishing City. It is ten years since a few of us gave Waitakere the eco-city concept, and if they laughed at our early beginnings, they are not now. Whether it be the Metro Mayors group or local government meetings, the cynicism has gone, replaced with respect in a business that often thrives on a smirk rather than a smile. We are rated for our decision-making, our consistency in sustainability and environmental integrity. When television comes visiting, often without a supportive agenda, they go away impressed.

Take for example the Holmes show concerning sewerage in the Glendene house, or the recent pool incident - both had strong positive Council responses - no waffle or blurring of facts or delivery. The New Zealand public saw and took note of how we acted. The feedback I personally received was somewhat overwhelming. We are known now for making decisions and sticking with them, I thank you for the support that makes this process work.

There have been some disappointments around the rail and transport. When the invitation came last week to view the Auckland Regional Council's new refurbished train, I felt I would rather lie on the track than drink a glass of wine in its spruced up interior. I have also been disappointed as has this City's citizens with the "single bullet" approach of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to the Painted Apple Moth. And if I have been somewhat tardy in my fulsome prise for housing in Hobsonville it is that I am waiting for their response to lifting the bar with design and style in suburban housing.

But there have been as many triumphs. The West Wave complex if we can forgive a teething problem, is a wonderful complex - beautiful in shape and form and concept. The Trusts' wonderful sponsorship of our new Sports Complex means we will complete on time and hopefully within budget. We have saved our oldest house, McLeod's Cottage, and will very shortly secure the New Lynn Hotel. The New Lynn sculpture, to be unveiled on 20 December, continues the enhancement of this City's quality of life. The removal of graffiti continues unrelentingly, and the opening of the new relocated railway cottage to house the Ecomatters Trust means that our vigilance is strengthened. We are at the close of this year in good shape and I believe in good heart.

I would like to thank the staff who have supported us through an incredibly busy year, one where it seemed a meeting a day made a crucial decision. Around us are incredibly high quality planning and strategic thinkers and administration led by Harry O'Rourke that gave us support and sustenance in our deliberations. Believe me we cannot thank them enough.

I would like to acknowledge my personal working relationship with Mr Harry O'Rourke and to thank him sincerely for his assistance, tolerance and great advice. To my Assistant Dr Alan Rodgers Smith for ongoing daily strategic advice and 24 hour forethought and surveillance. To Lisa Johansen and Vanessa Sherer for patience, dealing with a phone that never stops ringing and their gracious handling of the most difficult and complex of calls.

May I take this opportunity of acknowledging my complete confidence in the Deputy Mayor Ms Carolynne Stone. To the Council Chairs; Crs Stone, Hulse, Clews, Nash, Dallow and Battersby, and Mr Taua. All have delivered with an extraordinarily complex and difficult portfolio, and I would like to gratefully acknowledge their workload and commitment. I would like to acknowledge the Community Board network - our ambassadors that work out in our Waitakere community, whose sense of pride and purpose is somewhat renowned, and if they have not been thanked for the real work they do, let me do it at this moment. Thank you.



To the staff my sincere thanks. Thanks for your courtesy, for your friendly and honest dialogue and delivery. Without you we would simply be a bunch of elected talking heads. If we come with ideas, you make them possible. Somehow between the hours of dawn and dusk, you turn our dreams into tangible realistic and workable results. You are able to turn an angry ratepayer into a satisfied customer, and nothing too difficult is ever unresolved (maybe one or two).

May I wish you all a safe and indeed fulfilling Christmas and new year for you, your family and friends.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report of the Mayor be received.
2. That the Chief Executive consider warranting Council parking wardens to enforce graffiti violations, litter violations and the breaking of other relevant by-laws.
3. That the Chief Executive permit Council facilities such as libraries or Citizens Advice Bureaux to hold and distribute information warning of the dangers of methamphetamine use.
4. That the Council write to the Minister of Police and Minister of Health informing them that we have declared war on methamphetamine use and production within Waitakere City, and we require assistance and support to curtail and destroy this insidious, life-threatening product manufacture.
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13. That Waitakere City Council in its approach to the development of the wider Northern Regional Strategic Growth Area give priority to land uses that promote economic development.
14. That Council requests that the New Zealand Defence Force or other Crown entity retain ownership of the Whenuapai Airbase Land for the foreseeable future to ensure the long term potential of the air base as an operating airport is retained.
15. That the Chief Executive be authorised to cement in place strategic alliances to achieve the aims of recommendations 5 to 14.
16. That the Council endorse the use of the Clark Homestead as a national ceramic museum by Sir Tom Clark and Howard Williams, and that they be asked to bring the project together for the February meeting of Council.

RA Harvey, QSO, JP
MAYOR OF WAITAKERE CITY