

Let's Chat : 27 June

Personal thoughts and observations by Garry Jackson, Mayor, Hurunui District Council.

Hello everyone

Over the almost five years that I have been writing this column I have tried to establish personal style and track record of always "telling it like it is". In that same vein, I want to use this week's column to let you know that, for private reasons I don't want to detail, I have sought Council approval for an extended period of leave of absence for approximately two months.

Such a request has not been made lightly, because as I have said before, I fully understand and have committed myself to a total sense of accountability and transparency in this role. However, there also comes a time when, without compromise or question, it is also clearly apparent that for all of us family comes first.

Deputy Mayor Michael Malthus will step into the mayoral role for this period, with corresponding remuneration adjustment between he and I reflecting his expanded responsibilities. At the same time I believe that the District is in good shape, with the 2008/09 Budget and long term plan adopted (and showing strong, prudent financial responsibility), the pathway for mediation of the Amberley plan change has been set, planning has been established for the public hearing of submissions for the proposed frost fan plan change, our revised tourism model is progressing, and so on.

The one major subject ahead, and a major potential opportunity for Hurunui, is the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, and its alignment with new national initiatives previewed recently by Government Minister Nick Smith. I will be keeping closely involved personally in these matters during the months ahead.

Sincerely

Garry

(Etc)