

Extract from the Minutes – Council’s Meeting held 14 August 2006

Strategy Committee – 3 August 2006

8. Alternate Anniversary Day

Policy on Determining Significance – In terms of the Policy the recommended decision is not significant.

Clive Aim, Policy Analyst, reports:

“The Council, at its meeting held on 3 July 2006, discussed the Heritage Committee’s item on the Alternate Anniversary Day proposal and resolved to discuss the proposal at the next Strategy Committee’s meeting (**Ref E**).

Possible dates that have been suggested are as follows:

Event	Date	Comment
Cook sails past	10 January 1770	Close to New Year
Treaty of Waitangi signed at Whanganui	23/31 May 1840	Autumn, Term 2
First official European Settlers	2 February 1841	Summer, Term 1
Borough of Wanganui	1 February 1872	Early Term 1
International Day of Peace	21 September	

An alternate possibility is to institute a Wanganui Holiday without reference to any anniversary. This would enable the selection of a date with the most benefit to the community. For instance, a date between Queens Birthday and Labour Day could be selected. However, the loss of the existing Anniversary Day (summer) for a winter holiday may not be appreciated. Alternatively an additional day could be attached to an existing holiday. The Friday preceding Labour Day has been suggested.

Some investigation of the mechanism to achieve such change will be required. It is anticipated that the need to enlist community support and to have the necessary legislative changes made will take some considerable time.”

References – Agenda Attachments

- E Extracts from the minutes of the Heritage Committee meeting held on 12 June 2006, and the Council’s meeting held on 3 July 2006.

Discussion

Mayor Laws spoke in favour of Wanganui having its own ‘Anniversary Day’ holiday. He said a number of other local authority districts were also looking at developing their own anniversary day date. He said that a reason for having a Wanganui Anniversary day was to celebrate the District’s heritage. It would require an amendment to the Holidays Act to substitute Wellington Anniversary Day with a ‘Wanganui Anniversary Day’. The local MP would develop a local bill on the matter.

Cr Wills was against Wanganui moving its Anniversary Day holiday to the Friday of Labour Weekend as, he said, for the past eleven years Labour Day weekend in Wanganui had rain. He thought as it was likely Wanganui's wet weather would get worse, it would be better to have an Anniversary Day in November or March. Cr Wills suggested that the matter be referred to Referendum '07 for public consultation.

Cr McGregor thought there would be a lot of practical problems in changing Wanganui's Anniversary Day observance to a different date, and said there was nothing wrong with celebrating Wellington Province's Anniversary Day. He did not wish to swap a sunny January day for a cold October day. Cr McGregor noted that a lot of Wanganui's residents actually worked outside of Wanganui District.

Cr Lindsay, Chairman, Heritage Committee, said consideration of a Wanganui Anniversary Day was a good example of Wanganui District Council leading, and he knew of other territorial authorities which wished to follow Wanganui's example. Cr Lindsay said it was unfortunate that the Friday of Labour Weekend did not recognise an historical Wanganui event but, he said, it would be 'our day'.

Committee's Recommendation

Proposed by Cr McKinnon, seconded by Mayor Laws:

THAT the matter of a Wanganui Anniversary Day be referred to Referendum '07.

The motion was put by division	
For	Against
Mayor Laws	Cr Bullock
Cr Baker-	Cr Dahya
Hogan	
Cr Higgle	Cr McGregor
Cr Hughes	Cr Stevens
Cr McKinnon	
Cr Lindsay	
Cr Wills	

Cr Westwood abstained.

CARRIED

ACTION: Clive Aim