



# JOHN ROBSON on Tauranga City Council...

Management is setting objectives – and applying resources to achieve them.

Half the job of Council objective setting is done by Central Government via the Local Government Act and other tools (e.g. National Policy Statements).

So Council's role might be described as prioritising objectives – then achieving them effectively and efficiently.

Mismanagement is getting priorities wrong, not achieving objectives, or achieving them inefficiently – and, by this definition, there is evidence of mismanagement by your Council.

One unarguable objective for Council is meeting the conditions of resource consents.

Last week, I mentioned that Council discovered in 2015 that it "had been in breach of a critical infrastructure resource consent for years".

It still is - the breach concerns Pond 1 at the Te Maunga wastewater treatment site.

Addressing the breach will impact on Council budgets over the next few years.

As is too often the case, Council does not have accurate numbers, but, to address the issue fully, estimates total more than \$10,000,000.

And you will pay.

Still on mismanagement, your Council is currently 'refreshing the Council brand'.

It has employed a consultant, a creative agency, and internal resources who have done a "solid six months' work" - so far.

I have not received an answer from the Chief Executive re total cost of this project to date – I estimate it is at least \$100,000.

As Council is struggling (some say failing) to meet its legal obligations to deliver building consents on time – allocating resources to a 'brand refresh' is, in my opinion, mismanagement.

I would add that, in my professional opinion, the project is fundamentally flawed - despite design work being enthusiastically received by the odd Councillor.

Next week: Five whys.

*John Robson*