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ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE OBTAINING OF PUBLIC  
AMENITIES GRANTS, UNDER "THE 1% CLAUSE"  
FROM THE NEW ZEALAND ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT  
BY THE HUNTLY BOROUGH COUNCIL FROM 1975-1977

A Dissertation submitted in  
Partial Fulfilment for the  
Degree of  
MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

by

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I am particularly indebted to Professor David Bettison, Professor of Sociology who supervised this dissertation.

Frank L. Witten,

1978.

CHAPTER IINTRODUCTIONRESEARCH

Research in Huntly began in February 1975, and ended in December 1977. In February began the first approach by an association to obtain a grant from the New Zealand Electricity Department through the assistance of the Huntly Borough Council. In December 1977, my research ended after Mr. Gair, Minister of Electricity, had granted the Huntly Borough Council \$1 million to be used on public amenities in the town and also granted the Raglan County Council, \$460,000 for the establishment of a sporting and cultural complex in Huntly West.

Information was obtained from several sources. I attended for three years the ordinary meetings of the Huntly Borough Council. For two years, I attended meetings of the Power Forum.

Public meetings, and opposition meetings to protest against the grant given by the N.Z.E.D. were attended. Much information was obtained by private interviews and conversations with administrators of different sporting bodies.

I was able to be present at many games and was allowed to inspect most club facilities.

I received much useful information from the Huntly Press, the N.Z. Herald and the Waikato Times.

Useful information was also obtained from numerous reports connected with the power project.

PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

The purpose of this dissertation is to describe what occurred in a small local authority when it became eligible for funds for public amenities from the N.Z.E.D. under what is commonly known as the "1% clause". The emphasis of the study is on the way these funds were obtained by the Huntly Borough Council and on the activities of associations and individuals aimed at influencing the use of these funds.

Field work in Huntly consisted of enquiries into three areas:-

- 1. The provision of a new library.
- 2. (a) Grants for improvements to the Central Business Area.  
(b) Grants for improvement of facilities administered by the Huntly Borough Council.
- 3. The conflict between the

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JASMaD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (HUNTLY)  
 NOVEMBER 12th 1975.  
 N.Z.E.D. STAGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
 T.W. Fookes, Huntly Social and Economic Impact Project Working  
 Papers 2 & 3.

Huntly Borough Council and the Combined Sports Clubs and what is usually called the "Huntly West Sports Complex".

The Huntly West Sports Complex is the only one of the three areas which has been researched in detail.

The three areas were chosen for a definite reason; they enabled a contrast to be drawn between straight administrative issues in the case of the first two and in detailed study (No. 3 the Huntly West Sports Complex) of the difficulties which arose when public and voluntary associations became involved in a decision-making process.

The third of these studies facilitates some discussion of issues dealing with local authorities raised by Robert Dahl in Who Governs. Dahl gives a detailed account of how Lee, who had become Mayor of New Haven, was able by a clever scheme to obtain a large amount of federal funds for the city. Mayor Lee realised that doing something for the redevelopment of New Haven meant co-ordinating the efforts of all prominent groups within the city.

"And I began to realize that while we had lots of people interested in doing something for the city they were all working at cross purposes. There was no unity of approach."

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Robert A. Dahl Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City.

Yale University Press P.120

By appointing a committee of prominent \*citizens, Lee was able to work out a common programme unmatched in the country. By the end of 1958 New Haven had spent more funds per capita for planning its redevelopment projects than most of the country's largest cities.

In Huntly's case, when a grant of \$458,000 was granted to the Council for the development of the Huntly West Sports Complex the division of opinion within the community necessitated a deferral of the work programme. Then in May, 1976, a public meeting was held in Huntly at which the Huntly Borough Council sponsored the election of a committee known as the Public Amenities Committee whose recommendations were included in the Council's final submissions for assistance of public amenities through grants from the N.Z.E.D.

This study offers a contrast with the New Haven situation.

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\* "The twenty-five-man Citizens' Action Commission included the heads of large utilities, manufacturing firms, banks and other businesses."

HUNTLY

Huntly has a somewhat drab appearance and the picture the town presents is not helped by large craters created by open cast mining, and also by the extraction of clay for the local brick works. Many of the houses, especially near the main road, are small and often positioned in a very unattractive manner. The absence of shrubs and well kept gardens adds to the monotony of the scene.

Huntly is really split into two distinct areas by the Waikato River. Huntly East has the greater population, the main business area, and the better kept homes and gardens. Huntly West has few shops and lacks an attractive set out and many homes have untidy or neglected gardens. As the Jasmad study says, "Huntly West is the poor relation to the East". \*1

The immediate area to the west of the power project consists of farms most of which are in pasture.

It had been estimated that Huntly's \*2 population would reach between 9000-11,000 between the end of 1976 and mid 1977 if the power project construction continued according to schedule.

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\*1 Jasmad (JASMaD) Development Study

November 12 1975 p.9 3.14

\*2 JASMaD Development Study

1975 p.8 3.8

This estimate proved to be far too high. Huntly's population trends were:-

1951	3815
1966	5401
1971	5310
1976	5800
1977 (est)	6200

At Huntly the Electricity Department is working in co-operation with the Ministry of Works and Development which is responsible for the civic engineering aspects of the electricity project. For the first time in power station construction, there are no consultants to oversee the project.

#### THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

(a) The Huntly power project is actually being built on land situated within the Raglan County. The Waahi Marae which claims to be adversely affected by the power station, is also situated in the Raglan County.

(b) The Huntly Borough Council is very closely associated with the Power Project as this Council has supplied water and sewerage for project workers and also for the camp built by the Mines Department. Huntly is also the service town for most of the project's workers. Recreation and sporting facilities are also supplied by Huntly. Because of Huntly's position,

as regards the power project, the Government agreed to assist financially with the planning of the Huntly Borough.

A Technical Advisory Committee was set up by the New Zealand Government to assist with the re-planning of the town of Huntly. It consists of technical representatives from the Huntly Borough Council, the Waikato County Council, the Hamilton Regional Planning Authority, the Minister of Transport and the Ministry of Works and Development.

The Jasmad Group Ltd. <sup>\*1</sup> was appointed in October 1974 to carry out a planning study of the Borough. These consultants have been working under the direction of the Technical Advisory Committee.

Later this organisation became temporary, and then permanent advisers to the Huntly Borough Council itself.

What is known as the "Power Forum" consisting of representatives from the local bodies concerned with the Power Project, together with representatives from the different government departments concerned with the running of the project was set up to "iron out"

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\*1 JASMaD Group Ltd. is an Auckland-based inter-disciplinary consultancy of architects, engineers, surveyors, economists, sociologists, urban geographers and consultant town planners.

any difficulties which might arise between the local bodies and the project officers.

The two local M.P.'s concerned with the area affected are Miss Waring and Mr. Watene.

## HUNTLY LEISURE

Leisure activities are an important feature of all industrialised communities. The importance of leisure to Huntly includes not only the working man and his family, but the retention of young people in the community and the servicing of the needs of the elderly. The elderly today, not only have a large amount of leisure, but constitute a very significant portion of the community.

Huntly has had a long association with coal-mining and although the influence of mining has declined, the miners have given the town the close ties, traditional among the working class.

Moreover, Huntly, as far as winter sports are concerned, is a Rugby League town. In Huntly, the number of boys playing League out-number those playing Rugby by some 3:1. Davies Park, in the centre of Huntly, is a ground on which many international League matches have been played; while Huntly, itself, is the centre of the League code in the Lower-Waikato.

Gary Wilson in "Air New Zealand Rugby League Annual" (1975) says;

"Rugby League is one of the minority sports in New Zealand which has a clear cut social basis. It is overwhelmingly the code of manual workers. This helps considerably to account for the fact that to date, it has been stronger in the Lower Waikato with its

numerous Huntly miners and Ngaruawahia freezing workers than in Hamilton, though the situation is now changing with the industrialization of the city."

The fact that most of its people come from the same section of society helps it to create its vigour and close knit camaraderie. But it also tends to make it hard to find trained and competent administrators.

The JASMaD planners reported in November 12th 1975:-

"Existing recreation facilities are adequate apart from the hotel library, cinema and swimming pool. Analysis of data gathered show that the majority of residents appear to be satisfied. Huntly West, however needs greater recreation facilities." \*1

#### FACTORS LEADING TO INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION

It is likely that over the next few years Huntly people are likely to have increased participation in sport. Some factors leading to an increased participation in sport are:-

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\*1 JASMaD planners Huntly Borough  
Planning Study.

Recommended Scheme

12 November 1975

P.10

3.17

1. There will be rapid changes in recreational patterns and requirements.
2. One of the key factors in influencing the required quantity of recreational facilities is the size of the population. Huntly is growing in size and almost certainly it will continue to grow, so that more recreational facilities will be required on account of population increase above.
3. The increased leisure time resulting from a shorter basic work week, longer holidays and increased automation in the home and work place.
4. The increase in the general level of education. Reports show that with more education greater interest is shown in recreation, especially in the arts and cultural activities. 1\*
5. An increase in real incomes will also affect recreational patterns as people will have more money to spend on education.
6. An increase in the higher occupational levels will mean more money to spend and greater demand for recreational

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1\* The British Pilot National Recreation Survey showed that with increased education, comes a greater interest in recreation. This supplements the American Resources Review which noted that, "Education itself, does have a distinct bearing on interest in outdoor recreations."

facilities.

6. The continued importance of the mass media, especially television, which helps to spread knowledge about sports and recreation.

7. Changing social values increasingly equate opportunities for recreation "with the quality of life."

8. The urbanisation of the town, makes the country further away, both physically and psychologically, and this increases the desire for more open spaces within the town.

The combination of these factors leaves little doubt that participation in recreation will increase in Huntly over the next decade.

In Guidelines for Park and Recreation Administration in N.Z. there appears the following remarks.

"Philosophy - This We Believe!

First and foremost, it is essential that local authorities identify their "real mission" as it relates to the provision of park and recreation services to their communities.

Philosophy gives direction, focuses attention, and provides the framework for the successful organisation and operation of parks and recreation departments.

Unless these philosophical beliefs are

understood by elected officials, professional staff, and the general public it is impossible to establish meaningful goals for the organisation." \*1

Huntly is a somewhat untidy town mainly because of its mining history. But it is a town which appears to have the necessary vigour and stamina to improve.

It has many capable administrators who have both the motivation and ability to improve the over all appearance of all areas of the town and particularly of the main shopping area. With the \$1,000,000 grant from the N.Z.E.D. much improvement can be expected in Huntly.

The two local authorities, the Huntly Borough Council and the Raglan County Council are working harmoniously together in an endeavour to make Huntly a better town in which to live.

The Project has caused an increase in population and given the town a feeling of confidence. "The best thing that ever happened to the town," wrote one Councillor.

With the increase in population has come a need for better recreational amenities and it would seem that with the large grants from the N.Z.E.D. these amenities will improve remarkably.

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\*1 The Guidelines for Park and Recreation Administration in  
N.Z. P.9.



On the preceding page is a picture of the old Huntly  
Public Library (1975).

CHAPTER 2THE HUNTLY PUBLIC LIBRARYINTRODUCTION AND STATISTICS

In 1975, when my research began in Huntly, the Huntly library was situated in an alley, yards back from the main street. Total floor area for library purposes was approximately 1000 square feet. For 10½ years the librarian had worked in cramped conditions in the public library which was little more than one room, artificially lit and without a window.

The importance of the Public Library may be judged from the fact that Huntly used to have two lending libraries both of which have closed. The Huntly Library has now not only to serve a large area but to cater for local resident - subscribers and also for residents of surrounding country areas.

A measure, commonly used overseas and in N.Z. to ascertain if a library is fulfilling its purpose is for its membership to include at least 40% of the town's population.

The Huntly Library stood up to this test very well as the following statistics show:-

Year	Population	Membership	% borrowers to population
1971	5310	2330	43.8
1974		2323	
1975		2327	
1976	5800	2862	47.9

It is perhaps useful to compare these figures for Huntly with Hamilton Statistics:-

#### HAMILTON LIBRARY

Year	Population	Membership	% borrowers to population
1969/70	69,500	23,137	33.29
1970/71	71,600	29,770	41.57
1971/72	75,000	38,269	51.02
1973	81,000	29,871	38.00

During the year 1975, the following figures show the number of books issued per month by the Huntly Public Library.

March	3434
April	3990
May	3974
June	3441
July	3842
August	3868
September	3457
October	3712
November	2963

The Librarian's report for November suggested the decrease might be attributed to the opening of the second T.V. channel and when its novelty has worn off the steady increase could well continue. Membership of the library during 1975 continued to increase as the following figures show.

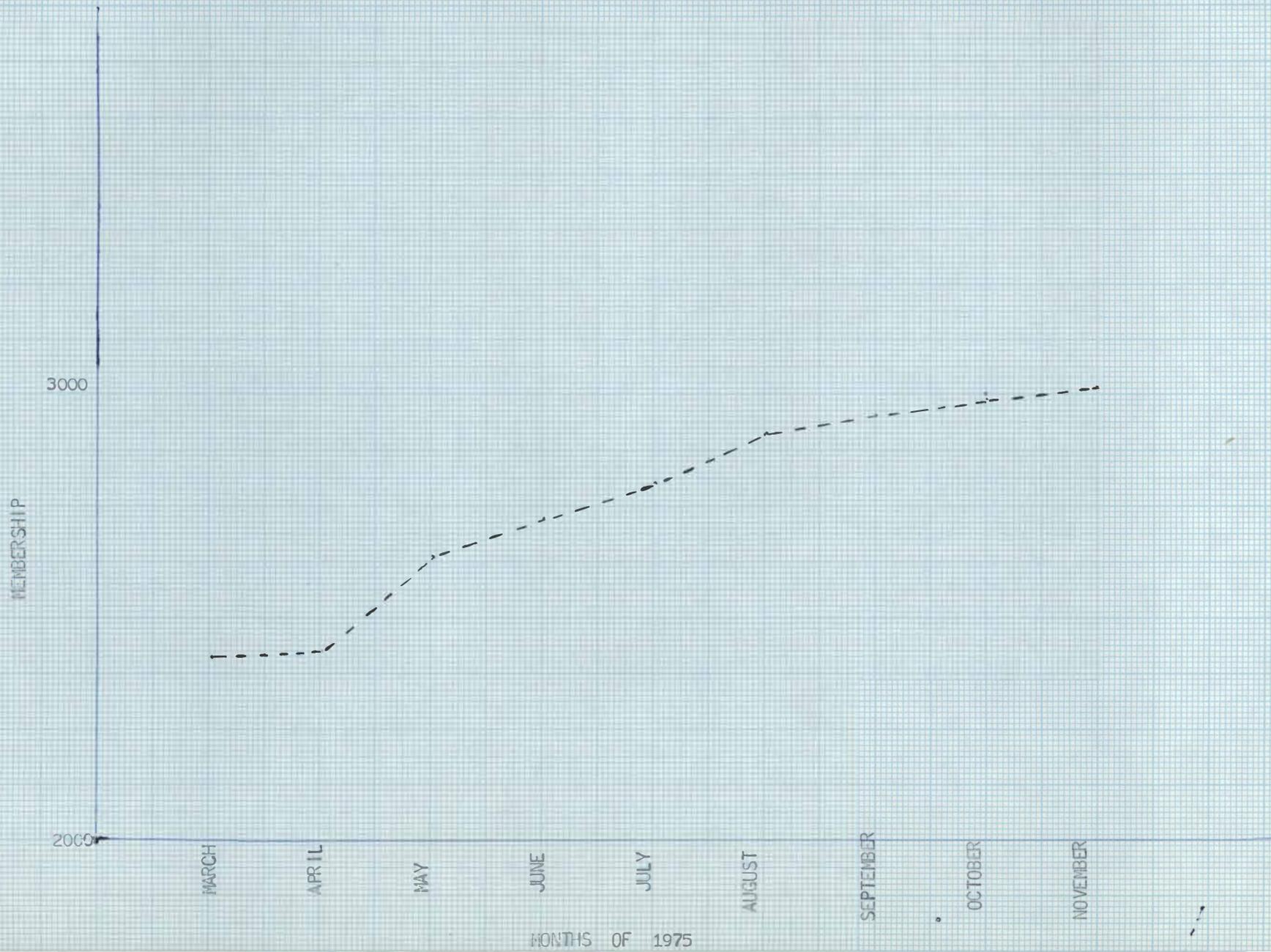
1975 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP, HUNTLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Month	Adults	Junior	Total
March	1449	878	2327
April	1482	899	2381
May	1503	1011	2514
June	1518	1026	2544
July	1548	1039	2587
August	1577	1051	2628
September	1598	1062	2660
October	1614	1077	2691
November	1627	1085	2712

Thus, members made use of about 1.5 book issues per month which, when related to the high proportion of membership in the population suggests a useful public service was offered the community.

This increase in membership is perhaps better shown on a graph.

MEMBERSHIP HUNTLY PUBLIC LIBRARY 1975



SEARCH FOR A NEW LIBRARY

In their Huntly Borough Development Scheme the JASMaD planners had indicated recreational facilities were adequate in Huntly with four exceptions. It would seem then, by the end of 1975, that because of the JASMaD recommendation, and inadequate library building, and an expanding membership, a move to a larger and more suitable premises would be only a matter of time.

On January 12th 1976, a deposit of \$6,000 had been paid on premises recently occupied by Newton King Ltd. The Huntly Borough Council had decided to buy the building so that it could be used as a public library.

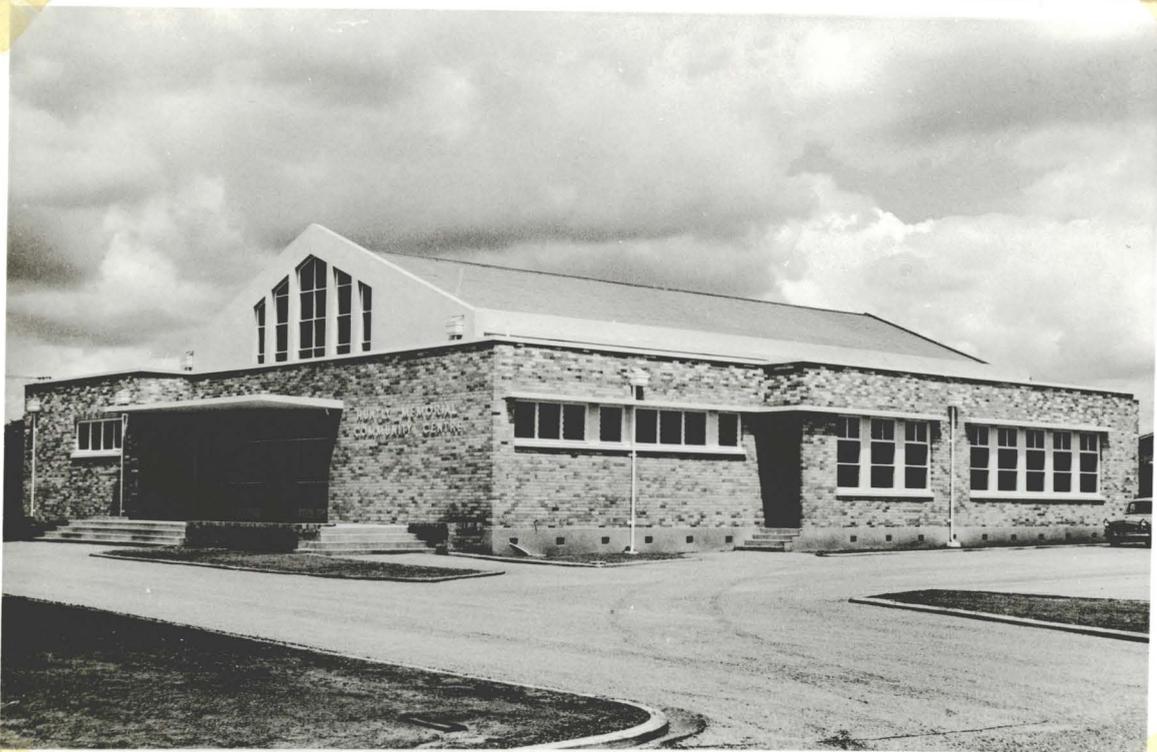
On February 10th 1976 the Huntly Borough Council passed a resolution that a formal approach be now made to the Government Loans Board for sanction of a loan up to \$45,000 for library purposes. On June 9th 1976 the Huntly Borough Council bought the Newton King building. Mr. McFadyen, the Borough accountant, said that the balance of the purchase price would have to be funded through the Council's current account and if Loan Board's sanction was not forth coming, it would have to be accommodated from the District Fund a/c within that financial year.

Bridging finance was already arranged. Income from the sale of two industrial sites to Ready Mix Ltd and Waikato Milk Treatment Ltd. together with the property would, it was hoped provide liquid funds to complete the purchase. An application to the N.Z.E.D. for a grant, was also to be made and this should allow for the added expense of renovating the premises so as to be suitable for library purposes.

On 27th September 1976, the Civic Amenities Committee of the Huntly Borough Council received a letter from the Treasury granting loan sanction for the Library Complex. At the same meeting, a letter was received from the Waikato Savings Bank, agreeing to loan the Council \$30,000 for purchase of the new library premises. Early in January 1977 the Burdett Construction Company was awarded a contract for \$22,000 for building alterations to the old Newton King building. This contract was for alterations so that the building could be used as a public library. The Borough Council had bought the Newton King building for about \$60,000 and spent \$30,000 on facilities. The cost of the building and re-equipping of it as a library, was over \$100,000 and the Huntly Borough Council was interested in obtaining a grant from the N.Z.E.D. which would fill the gap between the money the Council had been able to find and the final cost of the new library and its fittings. The Huntly Library Shortfall \$28,000 was approved in principle by Mr. Gair, Minister of Electricity, when a deputation from the Borough Council visited Wellington. On September 21st 1977 when Mr. Gair visited Huntly it was one of numerous items which was approved by him.

The speed with which this amenity was handled, involving as it did the local authority, private finance, the Loans Board and ministerial approval stands in sharp contrast to the events to be described later in this study. The Public Library facility was handled as a joint business endeavour by governments, consultants and real estate agents. It occasioned very little public comment, except expressions of agreement. While it

could be argued that perhaps the Borough Council perhaps felt confident of its actions in view of an anticipated receipt of money from the 1% Amenities Grant, the study demonstrates the ease of administration through formal and well-tried paths.



The Huntly Memorial Hall on the preceding page is one building which is likely to be extended as the result of grants from the N.Z.E.D.

CHAPTER 3

Submissions requesting assistance with the provision of Public Amenities.

- (a) Improving the amenity of the Central Business Area,
- (b) Facilities provided and administered by the Huntly Borough Council.

During the latter half of 1976 and through 1977, while the Public Amenities Committee was receiving submissions from sports bodies, the Mayor and Councillors of the Huntly Borough were preparing separate submissions to present to the N.Z.E.D. whereas during 1975, the Council had spent much thought and energy in obtaining a grant from the N.Z.E.D. for only one purpose, the building of the Huntly West Sports Complex. The Huntly Borough Council with the help of their Town Planners had begun to think in terms of total town planning.

The JASMaD planners had presented a report as early as November 1975 on the general planning of the area. The final submissions to Mr. Gair, Minister of Electricity, presented in September 1977, included \$1,145,000 for improving the Huntly Business area and \$1,142,000 for facilities provided and administered by the Huntly Borough Council.

Included in these sums were the following items:-

- |    |                               |             |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Reclamation of river works    |             |
|    | between the two bridges       | \$200,000   |
| 2. | Property acquisition          |             |
|    | (south of Raynor's Road)      | \$1,000,000 |
| 3. | Redevelopment of the existing |             |
|    | commercial centre             | \$700,000   |



that the second priority should be given to item (1) that of providing works proposed by the Huntly Borough Council.

that the third priority should be given to item (3) as elaborated and known as the establishment of a Public Amenities Trust.

It thus became evident that at this stage, the Huntly Borough Council would prefer that any grant from the N.Z.E.D. be given to improving the Huntly Central Business Area and the Borough Council facilities, rather than they be given to help sports bodies.

However, the grant to the Huntly West Sports Complex would partly satisfy this area.

On July 6th, 1977, a deputation from the Huntly Borough Council (also Messrs. Pickett and Challinor of the Public Amenities Committee) visited Mr. Gair in Wellington. The main object of the delegation was the 1% amenities grant.

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This was certainly a change from the situation in 1975 when the Council had sought a grant for one particular sports area, the Huntly West Sports Complex.



Item 10

Contribution toward Central Town  
Development.

Obtain Mr. Malcolmson's opinion. \*1

Mr. Gair agreed to meet the Huntly Borough Council on the night of September 21st, 1977. Before he arrived at Huntly, he had met the Raglan County Council and he agreed to their request for \$469,000 to develop the Huntly West Sports Complex. The Raglan County Council had, in the previous week, sought and obtained the Huntly Borough Council's support for the transfer of the area from the Huntly Borough Council to the Raglan County Council.

At the meeting between Mr. Gair and the Huntly Borough Council, he made it plain that he wanted to deal directly with the Council.

The Huntly Borough Council had promised on May 21st, 1976, that in any future meeting with the Minister of Electricity, the Chairman of the Public Amenities Committee could attend.

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\*1 Co-ordinating Engineer with the Huntly Project.

The Minister of Electricity, Mr. Gair, agreed to grant the following:-

1. Library short fall	\$ 28,000
2. Reclamation between Bridges and Property Purchase	\$160,000
3. Development of Pedestrian area in Central area	\$260,000
4. Domain Development	\$250,000
5. Development of Local Reserves	\$ 20,000
6. Boat Launching Facilities	\$ 7,500
	\$725,500

In addition to the above a contribution of \$274,500 was made towards a Civic Centre.

This study illustrates the relatively straight forward nature of administrative and political decisions, involving large sums of money, when adequate foundation work has been completed by technical personnel beneath the decision makers and the schemes were precisely identified, estimated and decisions on each made in rather precise fashion. In the study that follows, the influence of public pressure and consequent uncertainty of decision by authorities emerges clearly.

CHAPTER 4

THE HUNTLY WEST SPORTS COMPLEX

In March 1977, T.W. Fookes commented upon the "strained" relations between the Huntly and district sports and cultural groups as a result of an agreement between the Huntly Borough Council, the Lower Waikato Rugby Football Union and the N.Z.E.D. to proceed with an application under "the 1 per cent clause." \*1

The Electricity Act, 1968, S11 (2) (g), is commonly known as "The one per cent clause," because of the provisions embodied in it....the Clause states that the Minister of Electricity may from time to time;

"Provide public amenities in connection with any projected works at a cost not exceeding one per cent of estimated capital cost of these works, or in connection with the existing works within limits determined, from time to time, in conjunction with the Minister of Finance."

Further to the statutory provision, the Department prepared six guidelines for the administration of S.11 (2) (g).

(a) The intention of providing some form of amenity is not compensation to the community, individuals, or groups of individuals, but rather to assist the whole of the community affected by the creation of a large electricity project to overcome any detrimental effect the instillation might have on their environment.

In this context, the term "amenities" is taken to mean those qualities and conditions in a neighbourhood which contribute to

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\*1 T.W. Fookes Working Paper 2 Social and Economic  
Impact p.85

the pleasantness, harmony and coherence of the environment and its better enjoyment for any permitted use.

(b) The one per cent of estimated capital cost referred to, is a maximum upper limit and not that which is automatically payable.

(c) It is considered most important that any money allocated for public amenities should be spent in a manner which will bring the greatest and most lasting benefit to the community as a whole for the expenditure involved.

(d) It is desirable that any amenities provided should be identifiable with the project and enhance the power station environmentally.

(e) Only requests for assistance under the subsection made via the statutory body or bodies (Raglan County Council or the Huntly Borough Council) will be permitted.

(f) All submissions so received shall relate to a specific N.Z.E.D. project and would be considered together and in relation and not independently.

The Environmental Impact Statement for Huntly Thermal Power Station, N.Z.E.D., June, 1976, goes on to explain what it means by these guidelines:-

It is hoped that the above guidelines will help those organisations who have sought or are considering seeking, financial assistance to expand their facilities in anticipation of a bigger demand as a result of the project.

Whilst the Minister may regard the objectives to improve facilities of a particular organisation as being very worthy, it has to be borne in mind, that there

would be many organisations in a similar position and it would be very difficult to control expenditure with respect to the needs of one organisation in relation to another.

For this, and other reasons, it would not be appropriate for the Minister of Electricity to approve expenditure of this nature from project funds.

It has been found in the past that power projects attract men and families, with a strong community spirit, who contribute their fair share to community projects, sporting groups and other civic activities. The Department is, therefore, confident that the swelling of membership will increase not only the income of local groups in the form of additional subscriptions but also their pool of manpower resources on which to draw for assistance in expanding their facilities.

The Former Minister of Electricity, the Hon. G. Bailey, clarified the then situation, when he met the previous deputation in October, 1975, (from the Huntly Borough Council) in terms of "funds could only be made available for the community as a whole."

In the case of the Sports Complex in Huntly West the Minister was reassured to learn that the land would be vested in the Council who would administer the project. The latter became a condition of approval by the Minister.

It was therefore very plain that any sport or recreation group which was not prepared to vest their land and buildings in either the Huntly Borough Council or the Raglan County Council, had little chance of obtaining a grant from the N.Z.E.D. under the "1% clause."



The picture of Huntly on the preceding page clearly shows how Huntly is divided into two parts by the Waikato River, Huntly East and Huntly West.

In the right foreground is the Rugby ground which is to be turned into a sporting and cultural complex by the Raglan County Council.

2. APPLICATION FOR A 1% AMENITIES GRANT

The first body to make a bid for a grant from N.Z.E.D. under "the 1% clause" was the Lower Waikato Rugby Union.

In February, 1975, the Huntly Borough Council received a letter from the Lower Waikato Rugby Union (Dated February 24th 1975):-

"We are making this approach with the view of the Council on behalf of the people in Huntly joining with our Union to construct a grandstand and stadium, or for that matter, any sporting and recreation facilities on the land in Huntly West known as "Rugby Park". We are in the process of having a scheme drawn up for a stand complex to meet the needs of rugby at present, Lower Waikato, the rugby area for Huntly and Districts, is the only union which does not have a covered stand.

The cost of this stand is estimated at \$70,000 and is to be financed as follows:-

Loan N.Z. Rugby Union	30,000
Grant Recreation and Youth Activities,	15,000
Voluntary Labour and Materials	10,000
Cash Lower Waikato Rugby Union and Huntly Rugby Union	15,000
	<hr/>
	\$70,000
	<hr/>

This stand complex when completed will meet the needs of rugby but we have decided to approach your

Council before further progress for the following reasons:-

(a) Rugby Park is never used to its fullest extent, and we feel the time has come for it to be developed and used by a greater number of people.

(b) We feel that Council over the next few years, will be faced with many problems finding land for sports and recreation, especially with land being at the premium it is within the Borough, and the fifteen acres, within our boundaries could go a long way to solve this problem.

(c) The venture we have in mind, if controlled by the Huntly Borough, should rank for distribution from the 1% of the Power Project cost set aside for such use.

Should the Council be interested in our submissions we will have to act quickly as no doubt the proposed stand will have to be modified to provide changing rooms for the female sector associated with other sporting codes and cultural groups.

We, as a union, are most open in our approach and, apart from allowing that rugby has the use of the fields during the winter months, we would accept any direction the Council may make. There is ample land apart from the fields, as indicated on the plans annexed, and a project including an athletic track, netball and tennis courts, children's playground and sealed parking, etc., is within our thoughts.

Ownership of such a project would have to be vested in Council and our Union would be further prepared to make land required over and above ~~the~~ reserve at present

leased by our Union available to the Council.

Such a project will no doubt cost considerably more than the \$70,000 at present budgeted but we are of the opinion that the increase of funds necessary should come from the Electricity Department and other sporting bodies wishing to join the project. Realising the Council will be fully committed on other expenditure within the Borough we do not envisage the Council making any cash contributions.

In conclusion we wish to advise that we are only too pleased to provide any further information, if required, and would recommend that the Council, before making a decision, appoint a deputation to meet members of our Union at the Park to inspect personally, the possibility that our land has to offer."

A Rugby Deputation from the Lower Waikato Rugby Union waited upon the Civic Amenities and Social Welfare Committee on February 24th, 1975.

Mr. Wallis, on behalf of the Union, presented a submission concerning the playing fields, proposed stand development, stadium, sporting and recreational facilities for the area known as Rugby Park. On 3rd March, 1975 the Civic Amenities Committee (Huntly Borough Council) reported that the proposal set out by the Lower Waikato Rugby Union is worthy of serious consideration; with the known increase in population there will be a shortage of playing areas and recreation facilities.

On Tuesday, June 18th, 1975 an important meeting was held between the planning engineer for the Lower Waikato Rugby Union, Mr. J. Griffiths, who had drawn up detailed plans for the Huntly West Sports Complex, the JASMaD planners Messrs. R. Streatfield and J. Tilling and the Huntly Borough Council.

The business of the meeting was to discuss the Rugby Union proposal for the development of the Union property at Huntly West and to see if the plans for the development of the Union property fitted in with the over all plans of the JASMaD planners.

Mr. Griffiths described the plans for the complex in detail, referring to seating both covered and terraced, and adequacy of parking and the use of it that could be made by various organisations.

Messrs. McDermott, Welch and Wallis emphasised that the Rugby Union would wish to have the principal use of the ground in the winter but it would be available on occasions, even in winter, for other organisations. It would be available for many organisations in the summer.

Mr. Tilling who was carrying out research for the JASMaD consultants on the Huntly West Sports Complex then presented a verbal report on planning aspects of the project. He elaborated on access, screening of houses, elimination or minimising of noise from spectators, vehicular parking, night facilities, effect of lighting on nearby residential areas and landscaping. He explained in detail how the planning provided for cultural and/or passive recreation.

He argued that from a planning view it was an excellent proposal.

Further discussion followed. It was confirmed:-

(i) That the Lower Waikato Rugby Union is prepared to vest the land and buildings at Rugby Park in the Huntly Borough Council.

(ii) That the area known as Rugby Park will be developed for Rugby only if the Huntly Borough does not want to develop it as a Sports Complex. That is, if the Huntly Borough Council does not see fit to approach the N.Z.E.D. for a grant, the Lower Waikato Rugby Union will develop the area itself for Rugby and certain summer sports.

(iii) That with protection for Rugby use, the proposed development would be available for other organisations.

(iv) That finance available to the Rugby Union would also be available to the Huntly Borough Council.

The need for additional recreational facilities, particularly on the West bank, was stressed.

The Lower Waikato Rugby Union was committed to the development of its own areas, and asked for an early indication from the Huntly Borough Council as to its support, or otherwise for the development of the area in its wider aspect.

After the meeting between the Huntly Borough Council and the Lower Waikato Rugby Union progress on obtaining a grant for the Huntly West Sports Complex was very slow. The first tentative approach was made to Mr. Bailey, Minister of Electricity, when he made a general visit to the township of Huntly on May 21st, 1975.

He was shown a general plan of the proposed development of Rugby Park by several members of the Huntly Borough Council. No commitment was expected or given at that time.

On June 26th 1975, the Huntly Borough Council agreed to the scheme (development of Rugby Park as a sports complex) in principle. A sub-committee of the Huntly Borough Council was appointed to liase with the Lower Waikato Rugby Union, consult with the Unions Planning Engineers, and report back to the Huntly Borough Council.

On August 19th, 1975 at an ordinary meeting of the Huntly Borough Council, a progress report on the Lower Waikato Rugby Union development proposal, as prepared by the sub committee of the Huntly Borough Council in liasion with the Rugby Union representatives, was presented to the Council.

(See Appendix A for the Sub Committee report). \*

At 9 p.m. Messrs. W. Welch, J. Shaw and R. Wilson, representing the Lower Waikato Rugby Union, attended the meeting.

When they withdrew, the Council after several recommendations had been proposed, but not seconded, finally passed the following motions:-

That subject to the approach to the Minister of Electricity being successful, Council will then formally adopt the project as part of the Borough scheme and accept responsibility for its promotion and future development.

The Council make application to the Minister of Electricity under the terms of the Electricity Act part 11, relating to the provision and supply of electricity paragraph 11 clause (g) for a grant of \*\$450,000 to assist in providing amenities to cater for the growth in Huntly caused by the building and operation of the thermal power station in Huntly.

The first implication of the first motion can be constructed as being that the Huntly Borough Council had given a definite undertaking to the Lower Waikato Rugby Union that it would adopt the scheme if a grant was given to the Council under the "1% clause" grant.

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\* 1. See Report P 77

\* 2. Later adjusted to \$459,000

On September 1st, 1975 the Mayor of Huntly sought the backing of the Power Project Planning Forum for Huntly Borough Council's bid to get a \$459,000 grant from the N.Z.E.D. for sports and recreation centre in Huntly West (Huntly West Sports Complex). This was obtained. Mr. R.P. Kellow, Chairman Raglan County Council, congratulated the Union and the Council on their proposal. Mr. Malcolmson, the N.Z.E.D. project co-ordination engineer said however that the Council must ensure that its application did not start a flood of requests for help. Any other organisations in the town, wanting help, should consider joining the Council project. He noted the Waahi Pa Community and the Huntly Bowling Club had approached the Minister for help.

Early in October, 1975, the Huntly Borough Council forwarded a letter to Mr. Bailey, Minister of Electricity, regarding the principle of financial assistance to the Borough for amenities and with particular reference to the Rugby Ground Complex Project.

The Council proposed to finance the Complex in the following way:-

Grant by N.Z.E.D.	\$459,000
Cash contribution by Huntly Rugby Club and Lower Waikato Union to assist cost of grandstand and seating,	\$ 25,000
Loan by N.Z. Rugby Union (30 years at 2½% p.a.)	\$ 30,000
Loan gifted by Lower Waikato Rugby Union in consideration of perpetual lease of playing field and grandstand during winter months.	\$150,000
	<u>\$664,000</u>

COST DISTRIBUTION

Grandstand and seating	55,000
Earthworks, paving and sealing	97,000
Pavilion,	146,000
Caretaker/Manager's house,	30,000
Amphitheatre seating terraces,	61,000
Gymnasium,	67,000
Site amenities, lighting, fencing, planting	58,000
	514,000
Land contribution,	150,000
	<u>664,000</u>

Considerable increased costs had been added to the project as a result of the Council's meeting with the JASMaD consultants who pointed out the need for a southern access to the park, large scale plantings and possibly fencing as a break to neighbouring residents.

On October 24th, 1975 a letter was forwarded to Wellington explaining what the Huntly Borough Council planned to do as regards the Huntly West Sports Complex. This was followed up by a deputation from the Huntly Borough Council who went to Wellington to see Mr. Bailey with the idea of getting a grant from the N.Z.E.D. for the complex. The deputation consisted of the Mayor Mr. R.A. Wright, four Borough Councillors, Mr. Burton, engineer, Mr. Kellow, Chairman Raglan County Council and Mr. Brownlee Raglan County Council Assistant County Clerk.

The Chairman of the Raglan County Council told the Minister of Electricity, Mr Bailey, that his Council was in complete agreement with money being spent on the project as the building of a complex at Huntly West would benefit a large number of people in his county.

Mr. Bailey, after hearing the deputation, agreed in principle to the N.Z.E.D. contributing the major proportion of the cost of the complex.

He is quoted as saying, "I have given my support in principle for the project on the condition that the facilities are administered by the Huntly Borough Council and will be available to the general

public." \*1

The Minister said he was aware that several recreational groups in Huntly had sought assistance for individual extensions for existing facilities. "However, I also know that both Councils, with wide spread community support, favour the development of Rugby Park for all and this is in line with the Government's recreation and sports policy." He added, "not only will the centre be of benefit to construction workers and permanent residents of Huntly, it will also be a valuable asset to the Lower Waikato." \*2

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\*1 N.Z. Herald November 5th 1975

\*2 N.Z. Herald November 5th 1975

Also quoted The Huntly Press November 12th 1975.

OPPOSITION IN HUNTLY TO THE SUM OF \$459,000 (A N.Z.E.D. GRANT)  
GOING TO THE HUNTLY WEST SPORTS COMPLEX.

When the news of the Huntly Borough Council's success in obtaining a large grant from the N.Z.E.D. for the Huntly West Complex became known, there was much opposition to the scheme from many sporting bodies in Huntly. Some of the more active clubs began to seek ways of having the grant delayed or rescinded, mainly because the administrators of such clubs, believed rightly or wrongly, that such a large grant to the Huntly West Sports Complex would prevent other clubs from obtaining any assistance from the N.Z.E.D. Opposition clubs in the last months of 1975 formed an association which became known as "The Huntly Combined Sports Clubs."

One of the moves of the opposition was to make known to the Huntly public why it was opposing this particular grant. For most of the year 1975 press reports of The Waikato Times, N.Z. Herald and The Huntly Press had carried glowing accounts of the Huntly West Complex but on November 19th 1975, The Huntly Press carried two letters which stated why a certain section of the public was totally opposed to such a grant. One of the writers of these two letters was later to become chairman, and the other secretary of the Huntly Combined Sports Clubs.

Letter (1)

SPORTS COMPLEX

Letter against the large grant for the H.W. Complex.

Sir,

For many, many years an aspect of Huntly that has pleased me, has been the earnest endeavours of various clubs and organisations, which have contributed to the establishment of the town. This has only come about through the determination and hard work of their members; backed up, of course, by the amazingly deep purses and wallets of the remainder of the citizens. Scattered throughout the Borough are the club rooms, the facilities, the playing fields etc., etc., that are the memorials to the long lines of workers down through the years. Administrators everywhere have always been on the alert for some easier way of raising the necessary finance to ease their respective burdens.

At last, per medium of the Colossus across the river, a "Bonus Issue" apparently has come into sight. But, disastrously, the initial handling of the matter, appears to have been poorly done.

It is my opinion that now, (and now should have been a year ago) the Borough Council must call a public meeting of all those concerned and interested. Each club and organisation could then return with their individual plans for up-grading, extension or development of their facilities; along with estimated costs. After a good "Koreroa" amongst ourselves as to the reasonableness of their various claims, they should then be led by the Borough Council, in one combined claim to the Minister of Electricity. Whatever, the amount that is

allocated, then everybody would have "a bite of the cherry."

In the negotiations thus far, apparently the land, if any, must be vested in the Borough Council. I believe this Law, Edict or Statement does not measure up to the yardstick of common sense, and the people of Huntly should not allow it to happen. If it does, it means that we, the ratepayers, will be picking up the tabs for maintenance and development of Rugby Park, Davies Park etc., etc., for ever more.

As I see it once the grant has been approved by the Minister of Electricity, whether it be for the full amount or a portion of it, the clubs must go back...get the job done; and then the Borough Council would approve that the job had been done properly and authorise payment from the Ministry. In this way the rate-payers do not get involved in any way.

I say Huntly is a good town. It deserves a "hand out" such as this one. But of one thing I am certain. It will not remain a happy town, if by devious means, a small section of our community gets all this cherry.

Bill O'Callaghan.

Letter (2)

Sir,

I do not agree with the Huntly Borough Council's intention to develop Rugby Park as a major sports complex. There is no justification for the duplication of existing sports facilities in the town, particularly when many of them are not being fully utilised at present.

Further more, it has apparently been decided to go ahead with the project without consulting many of the sports bodies concerned and without reference to the rate-payers of Huntly.

I would be interested to know what sports bodies are likely to use the proposed complex and why they consider the present facilities inadequate. The Rugby Union already has adequate facilities at Rugby Park and Rugby League (by far the largest foot-ball code in Huntly) are unlikely to desert their existing grounds and club rooms. In any case, can these codes be played on grounds marked out for Rugby Union?

Huntly Domain is the home of soccer, tennis, netball, outdoor bowls, squash, badminton, swimming and yachting and most of these organisations have their club rooms sited there. One possible result of the presence of a second sports complex, could well be the loss of members from existing, to new clubs and their collapse due to lack of support.

As I see it there are several arguments against the establishment of a further sports ground.

One of these is the damage to existing clubs as pointed out above.

The second is that a major complex is most unlikely to be utilised to its fullest extent and could be a very expensive white elephant.

Thirdly, are the public of Huntly prepared to face increased rates to maintain the ground and to repay principle and interest of the proposed N.Z. Rugby Union loans?

Another argument against the Sports ground is that it must come low in the list of town priorities. The up-grading of Huntly's apology for a public library and the conversion of swimming baths into a covered tepid pool have far more merit.

Many sports are catered for at the Huntly College ... the sum of money provided by the N.Z.E.D. is too large and potentially too great a benefit to the town to be spent on an ill considered and unnecessary project.

Brian Challinor.

But these two letters would have helped the opposition very little if they had not taken more active steps to right what they considered an injustice. To many Huntly clubs, this grant to the Huntly West Complex, was a grant to one particular code - Rugby.

Early in November, a deputation of representatives from the Huntly League Clubs, swimming, soccer, tennis, bowling and yachting arranged, a hastily arranged meeting with Mr. Bailey in Hamilton. When they met Mr. Bailey the representatives of the afore mentioned clubs expressed their dissatisfaction with the scheme. They received a friendly and sympathetic reception from the Minister who stated that he had been assured that the whole community was behind the scheme.

The opposition tried to further co-ordinate their efforts by holding a meeting on November 18th, 1975, of all those people who were opposed to the grant. At this meeting there were some 70 people present. Some of the objections to the grant to the Huntly West Sports Complex stated by those present were:-

1. Opposition to such a large sum going to one sports body.
2. The Huntly Borough Council had not consulted all interested sports bodies.
3. The fear that the building of the complex in Huntly West would mean duplication of present facilities which would harm sports clubs rather than assist them.

Resolutions passed at this meeting were forwarded to the Huntly Borough Council on November 20th, 1975. There were several meetings between the opposing parties during the next few weeks but the next

important meeting was held on March 22nd 1976, when a deputation from the Huntly Combined Sports Clubs met the Huntly Borough Council Civic Amenities Committee. \*1

The Huntly Combined Sports Clubs were represented by B. Challinor, W.L. O'Callaghan and R. Spiers.

The deputation told the Civic Amenities Committee that they were not opposing the complex in principle but were opposed to the present arrangement i.e. the N.Z.E.D. grant aided only the Huntly West Sports Complex. The deputation believed that the Huntly Combined Sports Clubs comprised at least 75% of the sports clubs in Huntly and this being so their recommendations especially about sports grants from the N.Z.E.D. should have some weight with the Huntly Borough.

The Civic Amenities Committee of the Huntly Borough Council explained to the deputation that they were committed to a course of action which could only be amended by the whole Council.

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\*1 A committee of the Huntly Borough Council

On March 25th 1976, the Huntly Borough Council held an important meeting as far as the Huntly West Complex grant was concerned. It was called solely to discuss a lease between the Huntly Borough Council and the Lower Waikato Rugby Union. The lease had been approved with two small amendments by the Huntly Borough Council Civic Amenities Committee on March 23rd 1976.

Apart from the possible implications of a change of government and a new Minister of Electricity two local matters had to be faced by the Huntly Borough Council:-

1. At a meeting on August 19th, 1975 the Huntly Borough Council had agreed to take over and administer the Huntly West Sports Complex if a loan was granted for its development by the N.Z.E.D.

2. The Huntly Borough Council had begun to realize that there was considerable opposition to the grant from the N.Z.E.D. in its present form, as well as from local organized citizens.

If any progress was to be made with the complex, the draft lease had to be confirmed by the Huntly Borough Council. The opponents of the Huntly West Sports Complex were also aware that this was a crucial meeting. There were 34 members of the opposition present to give moral support to any opposition to the scheme from councillors themselves.

Finally after much discussion the Council decided by a vote of 4-3 to go no further with the Complex until such time as a public meeting had been held.

On 13th April, 1976 a letter was received by the Huntly Borough Council from the Lower Waikato Rugby Union which was the subject of procedural differences in the Council's meeting. Though eventually received, it symbolised a moral dilemma. The letter was to the effect that following discussion by its Union, the secretary had been instructed to write to the Huntly Borough Council stating that in view of the probable delay as outlined in the Council's letter (re the Complex) the Union was reconsidering its offer and was investigating development plans to allow the funds from the Youth <sup>\*1</sup> Activities Distribution Committee and the New Zealand Rugby Union to be committed while they were still available.

The Huntly Borough Council had by the resolution, carried narrowly at the Special Meeting on March 25th 1976, more or less come to an impasse. On Tuesday May 11th 1976 at an ordinary meeting of the Huntly Borough Council the Mayor, Mr. Wright spoke very earnestly about the progress on the Huntly West Sports Complex. He said he had given much thought to the matter and explained how he had drawn up a Draft Proposal for inviting public participation in matters relating requests for assistance for amenities. He asked if any Councillor had a better idea. None seemed to have any.

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\* Given to the Lower Waikato Rugby Union in 1974

This was the Mayor's Draft Proposal.

The Huntly Borough Council extends an invitation to interested persons or groups to attend a public meeting to be held on Friday 21st May at 8 p.m. in the supper room of the War Memorial Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect eight members to a Committee, of nine, the Council nominating a Councillor as its representative.

This committee shall be responsible for receiving, evaluating and making recommendations with priorities from written submissions from any person or group of persons who consider that they have a justifiable claim for Government assistance due to the impact of the Power Project upon them.

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The Civic Amenities Committee of the Huntly Borough Council also seemed to have few ideas.

Huntly West Cultural, Recreational and Sports Complex.

Your Committee reports:-

That it discussed the Resolution passed at the Special Meeting of Council held Thursday 25th March 1976, was unable to arrive at anything constructive as to how to action the Resolution.

Recommendations from the Committee will then be incorporated in any submissions for assistance which Council itself wishes to make to the Minister on its own behalf or they shall be submitted separately through Council, on behalf of the Committee. Council reserves the right to modify or reject any proposal which it does not consider is valid.

In any deputation to the Minister the Chairman of the Committee will be invited to attend.

On May 21st 1976 a public meeting was called by the Huntly Borough Council in the Memorial Hall. The Mayor at the meeting told those present that the meeting was called with the intention of making progress with obtaining grants from the N.Z.E.D. under "the 1% clause." The Mayor gave a history of the grant and said he

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The last two sentences come to have particular significance later. The Council reserved the right to modify or reject any proposal.

It must also be remembered, as regards the last sentence, that even if the Borough Council was willing to have the Chairman of the proposed committee present at any meeting, there was nothing the Council could do if the Minister of Electricity wished to deal solely with the Huntly Borough Council.

was perturbed at the ways things had come to a halt over the proposed Complex development. He was intending, by holding the open meeting to bring together as many groups as possible in order that he could receive the total of requests for public amenities before presentation to the Minister.

The following committee was elected at the meeting:-

B. Challinor \*  
 W. O'Callaghan \*  
 G. Pickett  
 M. McMillan  
 J. Adamson  
 S. McInally \*  
 R. Collins  
 S. Johns \*

Of this committee 4 members were also members of the Huntly Combined Sports Clubs - G. Pickett later was elected to the Huntly Borough Council and Mr. R. Collins became Huntly Town Manager. The committee became known as the Public Amenities Committee. Mr. G. Pickett was elected chairman. It was charged with bringing to the Borough Council recommendations on the way to meet the needs of individual sport, recreation and leisure organisations.

It should be stated clearly here that this was a committee opposed to the original grant to the Huntly West Sports Complex. The main reason for its opposition was not against the principle of the Complex but the fear, if the Complex went ahead, then the other organisations would miss out "in a bite of the cherry."

It must also be remembered that the Huntly Borough Council had passed a resolution in August 1975 promising the Lower Waikato Rugby

Union that it would take over the Rugby Complex and run it as a Borough responsibility.

The Public Amenities Committee soon began its work by advertising in The Huntly Press for submissions from Huntly based sports and cultural organisations which thought they had a good case for obtaining a grant from the N.Z.E.D. for the purpose of building or extending buildings etc. etc.

In September, 1976 the Public Amenities Committee recommended to the Huntly Borough Council that a "Trust" be established by the N.Z.E.D. to make approved funds available for improvements of amenities servicing the increased population of the area.

On meeting the Council, Mr. G. Pickett, Chairman of the Public Amenities Committee, explained that during the five or six meetings held, the discussion had always come back to the question of how the community was to have the greatest say over how the money was allocated.

Mr. Pickett said the Trust would also best meet the guideline in the Environmental Impact Report which stated. "It is considered most important that any money allocated for public amenities should be spent in a manner which will bring the greatest and most lasting benefit to the community as a whole for the expenditure involved."

The objects of the Trust would be

(1) accepting and studying applications  
for assistance

(11) recommending the release of funds  
by either

- (a) Cash grants or
- (b) Low interest loans or
- (c) Interest free loans or
- (d) Payable or non-repayable subsidies

(e) Any other approved funding.

The Huntly Borough Council adopted the suggestion that a Public Amenities Trust be established to administer funds made available by the N.Z.E.D. for public amenities.

A deputation comprising two members of the Public Amenities Committee Messrs. Challinor and Pickett, the Mayor Mr. Wright and two councillors went as a deputation to Wellington with the idea of getting the Trust accepted. The Minister of Electricity, Mr Gair turned the idea down.

On January 24th 1977, at a meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee of the Huntly Borough Council a comprehensive report bringing together the JASMaD recommendations and the submissions from the Public Amenities Committee was tabled.

The Public Amenity works proposed by the Huntly Borough itself, was concerned mainly with two issues.

1. (a) Improving the Amenity of the Central Business Area.

(b) Upgrading facilities provided and administered by the Huntly Borough Council.

2. Obtaining a new library.

Towards the end of 1976 the Public Amenities Committee placed a notice in the local press, calling for submissions from local organisations who desired and felt they were eligible for assistance under the "1% clause" scheme. A questionnaire was subsequently sent to those organisations who replied to the Committee's advertisement. The Committee considered the requests received and recommended the following:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	"a"
1. Lower Waikato			
Rugby Union	Sports Complex	\$459,000	
2. Lower Waikato			
Rugby Union	"b" Own Development	\$130,000	
3. Boat Club	Additions clubhouse	\$ 6,000	
4. Huntly Bowling Club	Upgrading facilities	\$ 7,500	

"a" These costs have not been revised in light of the lag in presenting the submission.

"b" Item (2) above (L.W. Rugby Union) is an alternative (1) ; \$130,000 has not been included in \$815,500 total

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5. Gymnasium	New Gymnasium	\$ 40,000
6. Tennis Club	Upgrading facilities	\$ 30,000
7. Thistle Association Football Club	Facilities	\$ 45,000
8. College Trust	Additional Facilities Karioi Camp	\$ 25,000
9. Waikato Rugby League Inc.	Facilities	\$100,000
10. Huntly L.W. Netball	Upgrading facilities	\$ 70,000
11. Huntly Golf Club	General Development	\$ 30,000
12. Pony Club	Building Storage	\$ 3,000
13. Historical Society	Centre	(not stated)
14. Huntly Softball Club	Playing area	(not stated)

A further six organisations responded to the Committee's request for applications. These requests were not included in the above requests which were passed as eligible by the Public Amenities Committee. In some cases details of requests were lacking and hence their case was not included.

The main task of the Huntly Borough Council was now to prune these requests or at least consider carefully their priority as far as the Council was concerned. At the meeting at which the draft submissions were considered, the Civic Amenities Committee passed a resolution that the draft submission should be submitted to the pre-selected sub committee comprising the Mayor, Mr. Wright, and Councillors Roger and McIntosh who would consider the report and make a recommendation to the next Council meeting. On March 1st 1977 the Council considered the Draft and resolved that a confidential copy of the 2nd Draft be circulated among all members of Council at their next meeting. That a Draft copy be forwarded to Miss Waring M.P. for early comments.

Now begins a period in which submissions are discussed with the Huntly Borough Council's technical advisers. At a Council Meeting on 8th March 1977, it was agreed that the 1% submissions be left in the hands of the Mayor to discuss with Mr. G.B. Burton, Borough Engineer.

On the 15th March 1977, the Mayor reported that discussions would be held with Mr. T.W. Fookes to finalise the submission to the Minister of Electricity, Mr. Gair, for the 1% Amenities Grant.

On May 10th 1977, the Huntly Borough Council passed the following motion.

That referring to the present submission of the 1% Amenity Fund, as prepared by Mr. T.W. Fookes that the first priority should be given to item (2) that of improving the amenity of the Central Business area; the second priority should be given to item (1) that of providing works proposed by the Huntly Borough Council; that of third priority be given to item (3) as elaborated and known as the establishment of a Public Amenities Trust.

The Public Amenities Committee's requests had now been given a very low priority by the Council. After the Mayor, Mr. Wright had been to Wellington to see Mr. Gair and had discussions with him as to what would be acceptable to the N.Z.E.D. he went to Auckland to consult with the JASMaD planners, he gave the Council an analysis of what was, and was not, acceptable to the N.Z.E.D. The Council in the light of this information decided after discussion to list their revised submissions as follows:-

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Library Shortfall                                    | \$28,000  |
| 2. | Reclamation between bridges and<br>property purchase | \$160,000 |
| 3. | Development of Pedestrian area in<br>Central area    | \$260,000 |

4.	Domain Development	£290,000
5.	Development of Local Reserves	£ 20,000
6.	Civic Centre Development	£ 556,000
7.	Special Consideration	£ 100,000
8.	Boat Launching Facilities	£ 7,500
9.	Beautification Huntly West	£ 65,000
10.	Contribution Toward Town Development	£ 500,000
		<hr/> <hr/>
		\$1,986,500
		<hr/> <hr/>

The Huntly Borough Council's final submissions were now ready for discussion with Mr. Gair who was to visit Huntly on September 21st 1977.

But before the Huntly Borough Council could meet Mr. Gair at Huntly it received a letter from the Raglan County Council letting it know that the Raglan County Council was interested in taking over the Huntly West Sports Complex if it could get a grant from the N.Z.E.D. The Huntly Borough Council received the following letter from the Raglan County Council.

The Raglan County Council has given consideration to the provision of amenities for the residents and ratepayers of the County as a result of the building of the Huntly Power Station. Many of the residents of that part of the County that is affected by the power station, participate in cultural, recreational and sporting activities that are centred on organisations based on Huntly or nearby.

The Raglan County Council has decided to advise the Minister that it considers that the establishment of a sporting and cultural complex in Huntly West would best suit the needs of the Raglan County and to enquire if the sum approved

in 1975, is still available for that purpose. .

Will you please advise if your Council is prepared to support the County in its application.

The Huntly Borough Council considered the letter from the Raglan County Council and agreed to support the county in its application for a grant from the N.Z.E.D. subject to the following conditions:-

Provided:-

1. That submissions to the Minister of Electricity by the Huntly Borough Council on the Borough's behalf, are in no way financially disadvantaged.
2. That all those sporting and cultural groups which are included in the original design and which still wish to be accommodated are fully provided for.
3. That no liability or cost will be incurred by the Huntly Borough Council.
4. That the statutory charges as levelled by the Borough on the area continue to be met.
5. That both authorities ensure that there are no legal or statutory impediments to such a proposal.

Before arriving at Huntly on September 21st the Minister of Electricity, Mr. Gair, called on the Raglan County Council and he agreed to find funds for the Huntly West Sports Complex, which would be run and administered by the Raglan County Council. The Huntly Borough Council met Mr. Gair on the night of September 21st, 1977.

Two items are important as far as grants to sports were concerned.

Domain Development \$250,000

A contribution of \$274,500 for a Civic Centre.

Mr. Gair, Minister of Electricity, provided the Huntly Borough Council with a \$1 million grant. Certain sports could be aided out of the abovementioned grant, but \$1 million was the limit of the Minister's grant.

The question of a contribution to sporting bodies was elaborated upon once again by the Minister and he reiterated that the terms of reference for the Amenity Grant could in no way be interpreted as allowing grants to individual clubs unless their land and buildings were placed under the control of the local authority.

Most members of the Public Amenities Committee had hoped that if the Huntly West Complex grant was stopped that they would have any sports grant given to the Huntly Borough Council by the N.Z.E.D. split up among the other sports bodies in Huntly. But few in Huntly envisaged that the Huntly West Sports Complex would be taken over by the Raglan County Council.

This was in more ways than one a shock to the Combined Sports Clubs in Huntly which had bitterly opposed all the sports grant going to build the Huntly West Complex. They could no longer oppose it by talking about the huge cost of its upkeep to the poor ratepayers. Here, in the body of the Raglan County Council was a political entity delighted to take over the burden.

Yet some way had to be found to get finance to help build alterations to the buildings, grand stands etc. etc. for the Combined Sports Clubs. The first move by this body was to find out exactly what had been promised by Mr. Gair on the night of September 21st 1977, and what were the conditions under which any sports grants had been given.

The moves by the leaders of the Combined Sports Clubs were by now fairly predictable. Immediately there appeared a number of notices in Huntly's shop windows.

ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT GRANT

This serves to remind you the Ratepayers and General Public of Huntly, that a Public meeting will be held in the Huntly South League Club's lounge this Wednesday October 5th at 7 p.m. to endeavour to find the facts regarding the Minister of Electricity Mr. Gair's visit to Huntly on September 21st 1977 regarding N.Z.E.D. grants.

We members of the original Combined Sports Committee formed two years ago felt a public meeting was necessary as we were given no access to the Minister, Mr. Gair, when he was in Huntly; and the report that a large sum of money was offered to be spent on the Huntly West Sports Complex was opposed by the majority of sports clubs in Huntly.

From the beginning of this affair the Combined Sports Clubs and the publicly formed Huntly Sports Amenities Committee have supported the idea that any grants from the N.Z.E.D. for sporting bodies should be shared by all interested sports bodies as equitably as possible. Practically every sports organisation in Huntly has a building or development plan in operation and would benefit greatly from any allocation.

As sports administrators, we feel that financial assistance should come to those who have worked over the years and we also feel that the upkeep and maintenance of our buildings and properties should be the responsibility of the clubs concerned and not passed on to the already over burdened ratepayers .... a situation that we feel could happen.

We are aware of the fact that Mr. Gair has intimated that money will be directed only towards clubs which will vest their land in the local authority and we are

also aware that there are side steps to achieve that end, viz, the sudden involvement of the Raglan County Council in the Huntly West Complex. We believe that the Huntly Borough Council has not taken sufficient notice of the above mentioned committee, nor of the public feeling in this matter.

There are some people who would say that if we continue to raise our voices Huntly will miss out completely but the public should realise that if we had not objected in the first place two years ago then the grant would have been the \$400,000 that was offered by the then Minister, Mr. Bailey. We believe that by our actions and especially the recommendations of the Public Amenities Committee, the town now has a firm grant of \$1 million towards Public Amenities for the good of everybody. We still follow that philosophy and want the "cream on the cake" .... the sports offer of \$450,000 odd, to be shared equitably among us all. We feel this is an important matter for the future of the town.

Bill O'Callaghan, Convenor.

On October 5th 1977 the public meeting was held at which the Mayor and councillors were present. The Mayor gave a detailed account of the whole history of measures which had been used to obtain grants by the Mayor and Councillors. The leaders of the Combined Sports Clubs chaired the meeting. The Councillors present and the ratepayers, who were standing for election, were asked separately if they believed that all clubs should receive a grant. All present replied affirmately. It was also obvious that a section of the people present were not prepared to accept the Council's explanation of how grants had been obtained.

The leaders of the Combined Sports Clubs took minutes of the meeting and these were formally forwarded to the Huntly Borough Council.

The following are the minutes of the meeting held on October 5th 1977.

Minutes of the Public Meeting held in the Huntly South League Club's lounge on October 5th 1977 to try to find the facts regarding the Minister of Electricity's visit to Huntly on September 21st, 1977, re N.Z.E.D. grants.

Mr. Wright gave an account of the N.Z.E.D. right from the beginning.

Facts that came out of the Mayor's address were:-

- (a) Financial consideration would be given only to those clubs whose land was vested in the local authority.
- (b) Though they had been involved for two years in negotiations, the Huntly Borough Council were no longer involved in the Huntly West Sports Complex.
- (c) Included in the one million dollar grant made by the Minister of Electricity to Huntly, there was provision if the Huntly Borough wished, for clubs in the Domain to be looked after from the Domains Development section; and the Waikato Rugby League to be looked after from the Civic Centre Section. \*

The Combined Sports Clubs committee in a letter to the Huntly Borough Council on the 18th October 1977, asked it not to allow the transfer of Rugby Park to the Raglan County. But the Huntly Borough Council had already agreed with the Raglan County Council to transfer Rugby Park to that body on September 14th.

The Combined Sports Club Committee followed the same course as they had followed in November of 1975. They immediately sent a deputation of two on October 15th, to meet Mr. Gair in Auckland. This mission however did not seem to receive the sympathetic hearing it had received from Mr. Bailey. Mr. Gair had no wish to be involved in any local politics and advised them to return to Huntly and come to some arrangement with the Huntly Borough Council. But before the League clubs \* could obtain a grant from the Civic Centre grant it would be necessary for their land to be vested in the Huntly Borough Council and it would appear that this is what they will do.

As the taking over of the Huntly West Sports Complex caused some dissent, Mr. R. Kellow, Chairman of the Raglan County Council explained, at the Power Forum on October 3, 1977 why his county had asked Mr. Gair for the Complex.

The Huntly Borough Council had the chance to own its own sports complex but let it slip away. The Huntly Borough Council had been offered the Sports Complex but "for some reason" turned it down. The Sports Complex will be built in Huntly West, on what is now Lower Waikato Rugby Union land. The Rugby Union said they would vest the land in the Raglan County Council if they could be guaranteed use of the Park during the winter.

When negotiations for a 1% N.Z.E.D.

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\* The Minister, Mr. Gair made it plain that any money given to the League Clubs would have to be deducted from the Civic Centre grant. Huntly would be granted \$1 million and no more.

Amenities grant to Huntly first started some three years ago the Huntly Borough Council accepted the then Electricity Minister Bailey's grant for a Sports Complex. However the Huntly sports clubs loudly denounced the Complex and the Council set up a Public Amenities Committee. This Committee consisted of one councillor and eight sports clubs leaders.

When a deputation from Huntly, which included two members of the Public Amenities Committee met Mr. Gair in July 1977 it asked for a combined \$3.3 million grant for the town's amenities. Their submissions included the setting up of a Public Amenities Trust to administer the money granted. But Mr. Gair turned the Trust idea down and said the money and amenities would have to be administered by a local body. It is understood the committee persisted with the Trust idea after returning to Huntly. On September 21st after visiting the Raglan County Council at Ngaruawahia and the Huntly Borough Council at Huntly, Mr. Gair announced a \$1 million grant to Huntly for public amenities and an offer to the Raglan County Council for a \$460,000 grant to build the Huntly West Sports Complex. \*

This chapter has shown the conflict which arose between the Huntly Borough Council and certain sports bodies of Huntly over the grant of a large sum of money by the N.Z.E.D. to the Huntly West Sports Complex. Many clubs in Huntly, rightly or wrongly, looked upon the grant as a gift to one sports code, Rugby. Because of the opposition of the public to the loan it was deferred.

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\* Report October 4th 1977 The Waikato Times.

The Huntly Borough Council then formed a committee called the Public Amenities Committee which it hoped would be able to sort out what the public wanted. But finally the Minister overrode this committee's requests and also their scheme for forming a Trust Fund and the final grants from the N.Z.E.D. ended up in a virtually straight line administrative form through the two local authorities who were mainly concerned with the effects of the Power Project, the Huntly Borough Council and the Raglan County Council.

### CONCLUSION

Careful study of the way the development of these three areas were carried out by the Huntly Borough Council shows a marked contrast between the speed and ease with which the first two schemes were carried out and the delays and conflict which arose over the proposed development of the Huntly West Sports Complex.

In the case of the purchase of the new library, although there would no doubt be sections of the public who would be more in favour of it than others, its purchase led to little public comment. No other body except the N.Z.E.D. had to be considered and hence its purchase was a simple administrative task which was carried out and handled along well tried paths. The second item, improvement of the business area and improvement of Council facilities needed much technical planning; and once the planning had been completed estimates and priorities fixed in a very precise fashion again the handling of grants was carried out in a straight forward way by administrative and political decisions. In these two schemes there was an absence of public pressure but this was not to be so in the case of the conflict between the Huntly Borough Council and certain clubs in Huntly over grants to the Huntly West Sports Complex.

In the case of the Sports Complex the Huntly Borough Council went along with a voluntary organisation the Lower Waikato Rugby Union in obtaining a grant from the N.Z.E.D. for a Sports Complex to be built at Rugby Park in Huntly West. The Mayor and Council sought a grant from, the then Minister of Electricity, Mr. Bailey, on the assumption that the association did incorporate the associations of Huntly collectively. This assumption proved wrong and a move had to be made by the Mayor and Council to patch up the error. The Mayor of Huntly finally came up with the idea of forming a committee

which would be formed of representatives from sports bodies in Huntly. The Mayor and Council hoped that this committee would be able to sort out what the public (sports associations) wanted.

Lee, who had become Mayor of New Haven, had the confidence of the public leaders in New Haven, in his first move; in Huntly the Mayor's first acts generated suspicion, an unanticipated consequence, but a social fact, that contrasts the two towns and sets the dynamics off in different directions.

The newly formed committee called the Public Amenities Committee soon made its object known. It wanted grants from the N.Z.E.D. to be shared out among all clubs i.e. every sports body in Huntly had to have "a bite of the cherry." The Huntly Borough Council now was forced by public opinion to act as a buffer between the main sports bodies in Huntly, as represented by the Public Amenities Committee, and the Minister of Electricity. The Minister of Electricity was determined that there would be no individual handouts nor would he agree to any donations towards any facilities which were not on Council land and under Council control. The Minister wanted something which could be directly associated with the Power Project. <sup>\*1</sup>

The attempt by the Public Amenities Committee to get greater control over sports grants, by the formation of a Trust, although accepted by the Huntly Borough Council, as a compromise, was rejected outright by the Minister of Electricity Mr. Gair who refused to deal with anybody but the Huntly Borough Council but he did help the Huntly Borough Council "get off the hook" by allowing the Raglan County Council to take over the administration of the Huntly West Complex.

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\*1 The Electricity Department, said the then Minister of Electricity Mr. Holland, "wished to do something really worthwhile and was interested in giving small handouts."

He also helped the Council by allowing assistance to the League code from money allocated to the Civic Centre Section.

In the end the protests of the Combined Clubs had achieved something but only if they conformed to the guidelines laid down by the N.Z.E.D. The ultimate decision rested with the Minister of Electricity and the final result showed that the Central Government through the two local authorities, the Huntly Borough Council and the Raglan County Council was able to get its way.

APPENDIX AREPORT OF SUB COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED SPORTING AND  
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF RUGBY PARK

The Sub Committee wishes to report as follows:-

It has at the request of Council liased with a deputation from the Rugby Union and following consultations with the Planning Engineers Messrs. Angus Flood and Griffiths can now put forward a final scheme plan for Council's approval.

Many sporting and cultural organisations have been approached in an effort to obtain an opinion as to whether or not there is a need for such a scheme. As a result we are pleased to advise as follows:-

(1) We consider that due to the increase in Huntly's population and consequent growth, particularly youthful population caused by the Power Project, present recreational facilities, in Huntly, are inadequate.

(2) That to meet this growth a comprehensive approach is needed.

(3) The present proposed scheme provides many of these needed facilities which is illustrated by request for inclusion by many clubs. A brief summary of clubs or associations facing acute shortages of facilities are:-

- |                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Drama            | - | No permanent practice centre   |
| Netball          | - | Shortage of courts   |
| Softball         | - | Refused erection of permanent diamond                                  |
| Rugby            | - | Changing sheds and toilets to meet<br>Health Department's requirements |
| Cricket          | - | Permanent oval and clubhouse   |
| Athletics        | - | Full athletic track  |
| Youth in General | - | No community centre as such from which<br>to base activities.          |

The scheme plan although it caters for many groups is not utilised to its maximum capacity and there is still room for other sectors of sport that may require a base in the future. We have to hand in excess of twenty supporting letters from sporting clubs, cultural groups and beneficial organisations serving the local area. It is our intention that those letters be enclosed with the official application.

The final costing of the scheme has increased considerably but the increase is mainly confined to the pavilion, sealing, plantings and fencing. The pavilion has increased in size to cater for indicated needs by the various clubs approached and the other increased costs have been brought about mainly as a result of a Council meeting with JASMaD who when approving the scheme pointed out the need for a southern access; large scale plantings and possibly fencing as a break to neighbouring residents.

The total cost of the complex including land is estimated at \$664,000.00 and is to be financed as under:-

Available Cash and Assets	175,000
Mortgage - New Zealand Rugby Union	30,000
Grant - New Zealand Electricity	
Department	459,000
	<hr/>
	\$664,000
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Provision has been made for the scheme to be completed in stages in the event of any shortfall of funds.

Plans of the final scheme together with a report from Messrs. Angus Flood and Griffiths and a schedule of costs prepared by an independent Quantity Surveyor are in the hands of the Town Clerk for Councillors perusal before the next meeting of Council.

We have made no research into eventual ownership of the complex and land. The Rugby Union has made it quite clear that provided they are protected for usage during the winter months they would be prepared to vest the grounds in Council if so required. This committee appreciates the fact that to date the cost of all investigations amounting to in excess of \$3000 has been borne by this Union and considers that it would be pointless incurring additional costs at this stage until a firm commitment to the scheme is made. All parties concerned have conceded that the complex will become an asset of the Huntly Borough Council.

This Sub Committee feels that Council should consider this scheme favourably as:-

- (a) The time is now appropriate to approach Government for assistance.
- (b) We are aware that regardless of Council support an application for assistance will be made but any such application would have a much greater emphasis if forwarded by Council.
- (c) If successful the total value of the project will become a valuable asset of the Borough.
- (d) Low interest Rate Finance will be provided by the New Zealand Rugby Union for the Rugby Clubs portion of the scheme.

In conclusion the committee recommends that:-

- (a) Council formally adopt the project as part of its Borough Scheme and accept responsibility for its promotion and future development.
- (b) That Council make application to the Minister of Electricity under the terms of the Electricity Act **Part II** relating to the Provision and Supply of Electricity

paragraph II Clause (g) for a grant of \$459,000.00  
to assist in providing amenities to cater for the  
growth in Huntly caused by the building and operation  
of the Huntly Thermal Power Station.

For the Sub Committee

I.G. Rodger

D.A. Morris

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ON THIS PAGE IS A PHOTO OF THE OLD GRAND STAND AT DAVIES PARK.  
DAVIES PARK IS THE CENTRE OF THE RUGBY LEAGUE CODE IN THE LOWER WAIKATO.

