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Report to Utility Services Committee
From David Benham, Divisional Manager, Utility Services

The Water Group's Business Report

1. Purpose

To obtain the Committee's endorsement of the Water Group's Business Report and Financial and Water Supply Performance Report for 2001/02 so they can be forwarded to the Council for approval.

2. Background

The Council publishes an Annual Report to inform ratepayers and the public of the diverse range of activities carried out during the year. For the last four years the Water Group has published an Annual Business Report to supplement the Council's Annual Report.

Following the recommendations (see Attachment 1) arising from a proposal put to the Committee in April of this year (Report 2.226) the format of the Business Report for 2002 has been substantially changed. A six-page summary report of activity has been produced (see Attachment 2), in a triple bottom line format, to demonstrate the variety of ways that the Water Group's activities - relating to the collection, treatment and supply of potable water - support the Council's commitment to a sustainable region. This summary report replaces the detailed report produced last year, encompassing 36 pages, and will be provided in hard copy to key stakeholders, including our water supply customers, politicians, government agencies and other individuals and groups with a particular interest in water supply. It will also be available on the Council's Internet site. The cost of producing the summary report is consistent with the Committee's recommendation of April 2002.

A detailed report of financial performance for the bulk supply activities of the Water Group, together with detailed water supply performance information, has been produced 'in-house'. The Council's auditors have reviewed and approved the Water Group's financial statements as presented here. This report will be spiral bound and supplied to

our customers together with the commercially printed summary report; it will also be made available via the Internet and hard copies will be available from the Council on request.

Arrangements for reporting the Council's annual highlights - including for Water Supply - via its Elements newspaper have not been finalised. This form of reporting is expected to occur with the next issue of Elements, due out in December.

The new brand identity was not confirmed for use at the time that the summary Report of Business Activity was designed. It is therefore presented with the Wellington Regional Council name and logo that was current during the period that the report relates to. This approach is consistent with advice from the Council's Communications section.

3. **Communication**

The summary Report of Business Activity will be posted to the relevant stakeholders identified from the Council's Contacts Database. Annual highlights will be reported in Elements as part of the Council's annual reporting to the region's ratepayers. No other activity is envisaged.

4. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) *adopts the summary Report of Business Activity for the Water Group for the year ended 30 June 2002, subject to final editorial amendments.*
- (2) *adopts the Financial and Water Supply Performance Report for the Water Group for the year ended 30 June 2002, subject to final editorial amendments.*

Report prepared by:

DAVID BENHAM
Divisional Manager, Utility Services

Attachments

- 1 Water Supply Annual Reporting Recommendation from Report 2.226
- 2 The Water Group's Proposed Annual Summary Business Report
- 3 The Water Group's Financial and Water Supply Performance Report