

Report 05.426
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Wind Energy Subcommittee

1. Purpose

To establish a subcommittee to consider submissions on possible wind energy developments on Wellington Regional Council land.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Council has recently been considering making Council land available for wind energy development. Certain sites have been identified as viable for wind energy generation and the Council is currently undertaking public consultation on the Puketiro site. Over thirteen hundred submissions have been received on whether or not the Council should make the Puketiro site available to developers for wind energy generation and, as indicated in report 05.128, the Council now needs a process for hearing and considering these submissions.

4. Comment

4.1 Establish subcommittee to hear and consider submissions

Under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 the Council is required, where appropriate, to hear those submitters that want to make oral presentations. A subcommittee is an appropriate structure for hearing and considering submissions for two reasons:

- It provides a formal process that is public and transparent.
- It enables efficiency of process as it requires only a small number of councillors to sit on the subcommittee. This is important as hearing and considering submissions is a long and involved process that can take

several days. For the Puketiro submission process 51 individuals and 8 organisations would like to make oral presentations in support of their written submissions.

4.2 Terms of Reference for subcommittee

It was agreed by the Council at the beginning of this triennium that every subcommittee that was established would have a Terms of Reference that clearly stated its powers, functions and duties. As such, I have attached (**Attachment 1**) the proposed Terms of Reference for the subcommittee, which includes the following key terms:

- That the subcommittee be delegated the power to:
 - hear oral submissions and consider all submissions (both written and oral) on wind energy. (The wording is not specific to submissions on the Puketiro site. This is so the subcommittee can hear and consider submissions for other sites that might be investigated and consulted on in the future.)
 - summarise outcomes of the consultation process and provide advise to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee on those key issues that should be considered by the Council when making their decision.
- That the subcommittee be comprised of four members of Council. This includes the subcommittee chairperson.
- That the quorum be three.

It is suggested that the subcommittee be named the “Wind Energy Subcommittee” as this fairly reflects the nature of its role. This name is also broad enough that it could accommodate undertaking other work that relates to wind energy should the Council deem it necessary in the future.

5. Communication

Submitters who want to be heard in support of their submission will be advised that their oral presentation will be heard by the Wind Energy Subcommittee and a time will be arranged for them to be heard.

6. Recommendations

That the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee recommends to the Council that it:

1. *establishes the Wind Energy Subcommittee.*
2. *decides on the members and chairperson of the Wind Energy Subcommittee.*

3. *delegates to the Wind Energy Subcommittee the powers, functions and duties detailed in the attached Terms of Reference for the Wind Energy Subcommittee.*

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Attachment 1: Terms of Reference for the Wind Energy Subcommittee