

Report 06.515
Date 15 September 2006
File X/08/05/04

Committee Ara Tahī
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Update of the Regional Policy Statement review

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- update Ara Tahī on the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) review;
- table a copy of the report by Bev James *Resource Management Issues of Significance to Iwi Authorities of the Wellington Region*; and
- propose dates for a workshop of iwi representatives and regional councillors on the RPS review.

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. Resource Management Issues of Significance to Iwi

On 2 August 2006 an iwi technical workshop was held in the Wairarapa. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the resource management issues of significance to iwi.

The workshop was followed up by meetings with individual iwi to further discuss their significant issues. The comments gathered from the workshop and meetings are presented in the report by Bev James *Resource Management Issues of Significance to Iwi Authorities of the Wellington Region*.

A copy of this report will be tabled at the Ara Tahī meeting.

4. Regional Policy Statement Review - Update

4.1 The process

The RPS review began with the release of Greater Wellington's state of the environment report *Measuring up 2005*. It reported on the progress towards the objectives in the current RPS.

Measuring up 2005 was followed by a discussion document *Our region – their future* in May this year. *Our region – their future* outlined the region's natural and physical resource management issues, now, and into the future. It sought feedback on whether the right issues had been identified and how these should be addressed in the next RPS.

Greater Wellington received 92 submissions in response to the discussion document. In general, people and organisations agreed with the resource management issues identified. The responses also confirmed that there would be two "new" topics for the RPS, the effects of climate change and integration with the Wellington Regional Strategy.

Greater Wellington staff have subsequently identified a draft list of the regionally significant resources management issues for inclusion in the next RPS (and discussed these with iwi at the workshop on 2 August). Staff are now assessing potential objectives, policies and methods for inclusion in the next RPS.

The report by Bev James *Resource Management Issues of Significance to Iwi Authorities of the Wellington Region*, will be used to help prepare relevant objectives, policies and methods. These will be further discussed with Ara Tahi later this year.

4.2 The timetable

The initial RPS review timeline indicated that the Council would release a draft RPS in February 2007, then a proposed RPS in September 2007.

The revised timeline provides a longer period of time for the development of draft provisions. There will be no draft RPS released in February 2007. Council will consider draft provisions in February/March, and revised provisions in July. Council approval will be sought in September 2007 to release the RPS.

5. Ara Tahi and Council workshop

At the last technical workshop with Ara Tahi, iwi representatives stated their wish to discuss the RPS review and iwi issues, not only with Greater Wellington staff, but also with the Council. Councillors have also indicated a wish to discuss the review and iwi issues with Ara Tahi.

One of the following dates are suggested for this discussion: November 13, 22 or 28. Iwi representatives can indicate a suitable date at the Ara Tahi meeting. The key messages from Bev James report *Resource Management Issues of Significance to Iwi Authorities of the Wellington Region* will be used as a start for discussion at the workshop.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. **Receive** the report;
2. **Note** the contents; and
3. **Confirm** a suitable date for a workshop of regional councillors and Ara Tahi.

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