

Report PE 07.122  
Date 6 March 2007  
File WRS 07/01/02

Committee Council  
Author Ian Buchanan, Deputy Chairman Wellington  
Regional Strategy Committee

## Appointment of Directors to Regional EDA Ltd

### 1. Purpose

To seek the Council's approval for the appointment of three directors of Regional EDA Ltd. These directors are to be appointed for an interim period while the permanent board is sought and appointed.

### 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. Exclusion of the public

Grounds for exclusion of the public under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are:

*The information contained in this report contains information relating to the appointment of directors to the region's economic development agency as it would disclose the fact that they are being considered for appointment. Release of this information would prejudice their privacy by disclosing the fact that they are being considered as directors of the region's economic development agency. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override his privacy.*

### 4. Background

The Council, on the recommendation of the Interim WRS Committee, has resolved to establish a regional economic development agency as a Council Controlled Organisation. The Council will consider the form of the agency under a separate recommendations report from the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee (WRS Committee). In that report a process is outlined for the selection of directors to the board.

Until the permanent board is appointed there is a need to appoint directors in the interim to initiate the work required for the regional EDA to be established and operating on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

## **5. WRS Committee Considerations**

### **5.1 WRS Committee Report**

The report considered by the WRS Committee is in **Attachment 1**.

The report sets out the tasks to be undertaken by the Board in the period prior to the permanent board being appointed and leading up to 1 July 2007. This date is when regional funding will be available to the Board to implement the WRS. The report also outlines the reasons for appointing board members in the interim and the proposed term of appointment.

### **5.2 Proposed Appointees**

The WRS Committee is recommending the following three people to be appointed to the board of the Regional EDA Ltd for the period until the permanent appointments can be made (expected to be by 1 July 2007):

- Murray McCaw (chair)
- John Lumsden
- James Ogden

Brief descriptions of the credentials of the three recommended appointees are in the WRS Committee report in **Attachment 1**.

### **5.3 Remuneration of the Directors**

The WRS Committee report in **Attachment 1** outlines the remuneration proposed for the board members. It is recommended that the remuneration be set at \$1,000 per month. The Council will consider remuneration for the permanent board members when these appointments are considered, prior to 1 July 2007.

## **6. Council's decision**

The WRS Committee's Terms of Reference record that:

*4(a) The Council has agreed that it will not act independently of the Committee, so that any committee recommendations that the Council is not prepared to accept will be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.*

Therefore, if the Council does not agree with the recommendations of the WRS Committee in this instance it will need to refer the matters back to the Committee.

## 7. Impact of the Decision on a Section 16 Objection Process

Greater Wellington's proposal to undertake the "keeper" role for the WRS is subject to an objection process under Section 16 of the Local Government Act 2002. This is in the form of a reference of the decision to mediation by Upper Hutt City Council.

The appointment of directors for this interim period will not prejudice any decisions that may arise through either a mediation process, or ultimately a decision of the Minister, should the matter be decided by the Minister. If the final decision is for Greater Wellington not to take on the new activity, the directors can be discharged. In carrying out their work the board will not enter into any contracts that will bind the board should it need to be discharged.

## 8. Communication

An announcement of the appointment of directors will be made through media releases and on the Council's website.

## 9. Recommendations

*That the Council:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Appoints the following people to the Board of Regional EDA Limited on an interim basis, pending the appointment of permanent directors:*
  - *Murray McCaw (Chair)*
  - *John Lumsden*
  - *James Ogden*
4. *Agrees that the directors appointed for the interim period be paid a monthly fee of \$1,000.*

Report prepared by:

**Ian Buchanan**  
Deputy Chairman, Wellington Regional Strategy  
Committee

**Attachment 1: Report to Wellington Regional Strategy Committee 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007**