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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa  
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## **Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee Update**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of progress towards the formation of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee and to present a draft Terms of Reference.

### **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 Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee resolved at its meeting on 20 March 2007 to endorse the formation of a Wairarapa Hill Country Liaison Group (now called Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee). The concept of such a group arose from a public meeting held in Masterton in September 2006. One of the outcomes of that meeting was to “consider the formation of a Wairarapa Hill Country Liaison Group”.

To assist staff in the formation of the Committee a Steering Group of eight landowners has been formed. The Steering Group have been charged with preparing a draft Terms of Reference by 31 October 2007.

### **4. Progress to Date**

The Steering Group have met on two occasions and are due to have their final meeting on 27 August 2007. The draft Terms of Reference will be completed at this meeting and a copy will be presented for consideration as part of this report.

Some key components of the Terms of Reference have already been confirmed by the Steering Group including a change of name, mission statement, objectives and membership.

The Committee will be represented by the following members;

### **Two Local Government Members**

- (a) The Regional Councillor representing the Wairarapa (who shall be interim chairperson until such time as all other appointees are in place).
- (b) One member nominated to represent the interests of the three Wairarapa District Councils. This person will be nominated jointly by the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa Councils.

### **Six Wairarapa Hill Country Landowner Members**

- (c) Up to six Wairarapa Hill Country Landowner Members, appointed by a subcommittee of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee on the basis of skills, experience, standing and networks in the Wairarapa hill country community relevant to the goals of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee.

Confirmation of the membership has enabled an appointments process to be formulated.

## **5. Appointments Subcommittee**

The Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee resolved at its meeting on 14 August 2007 to the establishment an Appointments subcommittee of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. Terms of Reference for the subcommittee were also approved. The Appointments subcommittee will report back to the next meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee on 27 September 2007 with recommendations to appoint the six hill country members.

The Appointments subcommittee will comprise the following members;

Cr Rick Long (chair)  
Cr Ian Buchanan  
John Dalziell.

The subcommittee will also begin a consultation process with representatives of the three Wairarapa District Councils to nominate a member to represent the interests of those Councils.

## **6. Timelines for Appointments**

It is anticipated that one of the appointed members to the proposed Wairarapa and Catchment Management Committee will be nominated by the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee. The proposed timelines are recommended so the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee will coincide its deliberations with Council's appointments process following the 2007 local elections.

The first meeting of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee will therefore take place between the 2007 local elections and the first meeting of the new Council.

## 7. Terms of Reference

The draft Terms of Reference are attached as Attachment 1.

## 8. Communications

The appointment of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee is important for both hill country landowners and Council. It will be necessary to use a variety of printed media to report progress on the formation of the Advisory Committee, and to acknowledge the importance given to it by Greater Wellington.

Reports relating to the formation of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee will appear in the next edition of the Rural Services Newsletter.

## 9. Recommendation

*That the Committee*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Endorses the Terms of Reference for the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee.***

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