

4 June 2009

Freepost 118112
Proposed Regional Policy Statement
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON 6142

Attention: RPS Submission team

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission on Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region

Following is a submission by Wendy Saunders and Kim Wright (GNS Science), on the proposed Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for the Wellington region.

The specific parts of the proposed RPS that our submission relates to are as follows:

1. Policy 28: Avoiding subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards – district plans, page 96;
2. Policy 50: Minimising the risks and consequences of natural hazards – consideration, pages 115-116; and
3. Policy 51: Minimising adverse effects of hazard mitigation measures – consideration, pages 116-117.

Our submission is that:

Policy 28:

1. We *support* Policy 28's emphasis on avoiding subdivision and development in areas at high risk from natural hazards within district plans.
2. While examples are provided of a risk based approach, including reference to fault rupture avoidance zones of 20 m; setbacks from eroding coastlines; hazard areas on floodplains; and geotechnical investigations being required for areas prone to landslide; it is recommended that these examples are strengthened to become a requirement to be included in district plans. It has recently come to our attention that some territorial authorities need to strengthen their policies in this area - when provided with the opportunity to have a setback from an active fault, it is not taken.
3. We *support* the inclusion of guidance documents for referral.
4. The reference to *Geological and Nuclear Science* should read *GNS Science*.
5. We support Policy 28's risk-based approach.

Policy 50:

6. We *support* the aim of Policy 50.
7. The description of earthquake hazards should also include ground displacement.
8. We support the 1% AEP as a minimum standard only for flooding, and that it may need to be higher in certain areas depending on the risk.
9. Guidance resources (as provided in Policy 28, p 96) should be listed to assist in promoting uptake of improved policy.

Policy 51:

10. We *support* the aim of Policy 51.

We wish Greater Wellington to make the following decisions:

1. Strengthen Policy 28 to ensure district plans require fault rupture avoidance zones of 20 m; setbacks from eroding coastlines; hazard areas on floodplains are mapped; and require geotechnical investigations for areas prone to landslide (p 96).
2. Amend reference to Geological and Nuclear Science to GNS Science (p 96);
3. Include ground displacement as an earthquake hazard (p 116); and
4. Include a list of guidance documents (similar to those on p 96) for assistance with Policy 50.

We do not wish to be heard in support of this submission. However, if there are any questions relating to the points raised, please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Saunders on (04) 570 4802 or at w.saunders@gns.cri.nz.

Yours faithfully



Terry Webb
General Manager, Natural Hazards