

Report 14.227  
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Committee Regional Transport Committee  
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## Approval of significance policies for the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015

### 1. Purpose

This report outlines the proposed significance policy for inclusion in the Regional Land Transport Plan 2015 (RLTP) for consideration and approval by the Regional Transport Committee (the Committee).

### 2. Background

The Land Transport Management Act 2003 (the Act)<sup>1</sup> formally requires the Committee to prepare and consult on a RLTP. The RLTP is a statutory document that every region must prepare every six years and it is required to contribute to the purpose of the Act which seeks ‘an effective, efficient, and safe land transport system’. The Act was amended in 2013, and from 2015 the RLTP will have two main elements: the Regional Network Plan and the Regional Programme.

### 3. Legislative requirements

The amendments to the Act in 2013 make specific mention of “significance” and revise the requirements in connection with significance policy.

The Committee must define significance in relation to what it deems to be ‘significant activities’ in relation to section 16 of the Act. Significant activities are those that are prioritised in the RLTP. The Committee is also required to establish a significance policy to determine the appropriate process for considering variations to the RLTP under section 106 of the Act.

The significance policy needs to reflect these two distinct elements.

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<sup>1</sup> As amended by the Land Transport Management Amendment Acts of 2008 and 2013.

## **4. Proposed significance policy**

It is proposed to update the existing significance policy contained in the RLTS and RLTP to reflect the legislative changes, given these existing policies have proven robust. This will involve merging the RLTS and RLTP policies on variations and editing the terminology and wording of the policy on significant activities to reflect legislative changes.

The proposed amended policy is contained in **Attachment 1** to this report.

### **4.1 Purpose of the Policy**

This policy sets out how to determine:

- The significance of variations to the RLTP; and
- Which activities included in the RLTP are considered to be “significant” and are therefore prioritised as required by section 106 (2) (b) of the Act.

## **5. Communication**

If agreed, the significance policy will be included in the draft RLTP for consultation in January 2015. It will also be used to identify the “significant activities” that will be the subject of prioritisation as part of the Regional Programme components of the RLTP.

## **6. The decision-making process and significance**

Officers recognise that the matters referenced in this report may have a high degree of importance to affected or interested parties.

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the LGA). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

### **6.1 Significance of the decision**

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term ‘significance’ has a statutory definition set out in the LGA.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

The subject matter of this report, namely the proposed RLTP significance policy, amends and updates existing Council policy without significantly changing the content or purpose of that policy. Any variations to the RLTP or various elements of the draft RLTP programme resulting from the application of the proposed amended policy will be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

## **7. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the significance policy as set out in **Attachment 1** for inclusion as part of the RLTP 2015.*

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**Attachment 1: Regional Land Transport Programme 2015-21 significance policy**