

Report 15.329
Date 25 June 2015
File CCAB-8-120

Committee Council
Authors Nigel Corry, General Manager, Environment Management

Report on Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting, 25 June 2015

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting of 25 June 2015.

2. Reports

2.1 Notification of the Proposed Natural Resource Plan.

The Committee recommended that Council proceed with public notification of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region.

The Committee was informed of the process for public notification of the plan that will take place subject to the plan being approved by Council. Public notification will take place on 31 July 2015 when public notices will be published in local and regional newspapers around the Wellington region. A comprehensive direct notification process will also be undertaken as every household (approximately 190,000) in the Wellington region will be sent a letter inviting submissions on the plan. Aside from the public notification process, radio, media releases and social media will also be utilised to inform the public of the submission period and the closing date. The proposed submission period would continue from the date of notification until 25 September, which complies with legislative requirements set out in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act. Because consultation on the draft natural resources plan has already taken place, submitters should already have some knowledge of the plan.

The Committee noted that 22 reports had been prepared which address requirements under section 32 of the Resource Management Act. These reports will be made available upon notification taking place. Following the submission period finishing on 25 September, GWRC staff will prepare a summary of submissions. Following this, further submissions will be received before the hearing of submissions, which will be held in mid-late 2016. The plan will not become completely operational until all appeals of hearing decisions are resolved by the Environment Court.

The Committee expressed its satisfaction that the milestone of releasing the proposed plan had been reached. It also noted the excellent co-operation between the Councillor and non-Councillor members of the Committee. This co-operation has set an example to other councils throughout the country and provided the groundwork for further developing integrated approaches. Thanks were extended to members of staff involved in producing the plan over the past six years, and particularly to the Environmental Policy team. Recognition was also given to the Kaitaki group, who had provided the Committee with valuable input.

3. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

Nigel Corry
General Manager,
Environment Management

Report approved by:

Cr Chris Laidlaw
Co-Chair, Te Upoko Taiao –
Natural Resource Management
Committee