

Report 99.669

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Report to the Environment Committee
from Richard Peterson, Policy Advisor (Statutory), Resource Policy

Regional Council Input to District Planning

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of Regional Council input to the statutory resource management processes of territorial authorities in the western part of the Region.

2. Overview

2.1 Resource Consents

Fourteen notified resource consents were received during the period since the last report (written on 8 October). To date only one submission has been made in response to these. This submission is on an application to redevelop Porirua Park in Mungavin Avenue, Porirua. The Council's submission requested that the City Council (the applicant) give further consideration to the access needs of public transport, pedestrians and cyclists.

It is likely that a submission will be made on a land use consent application to continue a quarry operation at Harris Road, Pauatahanui. The Council's interest in this application relates to Belmont Regional Park, silt-control measures and, possibly, transport issues.

Further to my last report, the hearing for the subdivision consent application at Te Horo has been scheduled for Friday 26 November. Following meetings that Tim Porteous and I have held with the applicant it is likely that they will be presenting a landscape plan at this hearing addressing the issue of natural character.

Following the release of their decision on the District Plan variation (see below), Upper Hutt City Council has set the hearing for the ProMall resource consent application for 6-9 December. However, at the time of writing the applicant had still to provide further information on flood protection and transport, which formed the basis of the Regional Council submission.

2.2 District Plans

Upper Hutt City Council released their decision on Variation 1 to their District Plan on 8 November. This variation relates to the St. Patrick's Estate site in Silverstream, which is also subject to the ProMall resource consent applications. Of most significance for the future use of this site is the City Council's decision to provide for retailing as a discretionary activity. Prior to this decision, retailing was a non-complying activity on this site.

Wellington City Council have notified 4 variations and 1 designation requirement during this report period. Three of the variations follow an Environment Court recommendation and relate to procedural matters. The fourth is intended to accommodate the latest concept plan for Lambton Harbour. Regional Council interest is likely to be twofold:

1. The relationship of the variation to the Regional Coastal Plan; and
2. Transport interests, relating to car parking and provision for pedestrians and public transport.

The designation requirement is from the Ministry for Education and is for a new primary school and kindergarten in Seatoun. If the Regional Council makes a submission, again it is likely to be in relation to transport matters, particularly access for pedestrians.

2.3 Transit Designations

As noted in my previous report, Upper Hutt City Council held a hearing on the Kaitoke Hill upgrade of State Highway 2 on 3-4 November. As yet no decision has been released, however the Regional Council's concerns were largely resolved by conditions which Transit proposed at the hearing.

Progress on State Highway 58 has slowed as Transit responds to the new Regional Land Transport Strategy. Transit's consultants are now in the process of re-evaluating their proposal in relation to its effects on the regional land transport network.

Finally on 28 and 30 October, Transit held an open day on the options for upgrading MacKays Crossing. The assessments that were on show at that open day indicated that Transit now favour an option that will see the State Highway 1 crossing moved north of its current position. This will have significant benefits for the Regional Council as it means the upgrade will not encroach on Queen Elizabeth Park.

3. Communications

The matters referred to in this report are part of on-going statutory processes, and these processes are the appropriate way of communicating the information.

4. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the information noted.

Report prepared by:

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