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Report to the Regional Land Transport Committee
From: Cr Mike Gibson

Consultation on Variations or Changes to District Plans

1. Purpose of Report

To assess the procedures to be undertaken when the Council is “consulted” about major variations or changes to District Plans and there are significant, relevant issues concerning the Regional Transport strategy.

2. Introduction

- (a) Under Schedule One of the Resource Management Act, 1991, there is a requirement to consult with the Wellington Regional Council in certain circumstances.
- (b) One such circumstance is described in the attached Memorandum of Dr Wayne Hastie dated 6 March 2000 (Attachment One).
- (c) No doubt there are occasions other than the introduction of the infamous Variation 17 when consultation with the Wellington Regional Council is required for some legal reason.
- (d) The “consultation” in the case of Variation 17:
 - (i) was confined to the preliminary discussion of a draft document;
 - (ii) was informal and undocumented;
 - (iii) led to acceding (if indeed there was accession) at a level of officers below the top two levels; and
 - (iv) caused Variation 17 to be thrown into the public arena in a seriously deficient state regarding the Regional Transport Strategy, thus causing the public a huge amount of unnecessary work regarding the implications for transport (not to mention

numerous other problems such as with our Regional Coastal Plan).

3. Regional Council Submission

The Submission of the Wellington Regional Council on Variation 17 is attached (Attachment Two). It is dated 7 February 2000. Councillors were informed that there was no time to consult with them.

4. General

1. There is a general practice in operation within the Council whereby important matters which affect Upper Hutt or Hutt City or Porirua or Kapiti or the Wairarapa are drawn to the attention of one or more of the Councillors representing one or more of those constituencies. This policy should be endorsed in any assessment, or re-assessment, of procedures regarding consultation of the Wellington Regional Council on matters affecting the Regional Transport Strategy.
2. There might be other guidelines on policies which would be worth adopting for future clarity and reference.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

MIKE GIBSON
Councillor

Attachment One: Memorandum from Wayne Hastie dated 6 March 2000 entitled "Consultation on Variation 17"

Attachment Two: Submission of Wellington Regional Council on Variation 17 dated 7 February 2000