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Report to the Environment Committee
from Nicki Kinghorn, Policy Advisor, Resource Policy

Non-regulatory Air Quality Management Plan Implementation

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the non-regulatory methods in the Air Quality Management Plan (“the Plan”) that will be implemented over the next three years to address specific air discharge problems in the Region.

2. Background

The Plan became operative on 8 May 2000. It provides a balance of regulatory methods (that is, rules) and non-regulatory methods, both of which need to be implemented effectively to achieve air quality objectives. The rules will be implemented through the resource consent process. This report relates to implementation of the non-regulatory methods.

The Plan includes 31 non-regulatory methods to be implemented by the Council, not listed in any order of priority. During this financial year, a review was carried out for the purposes of prioritising air quality and emission problems in the Region, and setting targets and priorities for implementing non-regulatory methods to address them. Air quality and emission information held by the Council was reviewed, including air quality monitoring reports, emission inventories, the pollution response database, the resource consents database, and problems with the policies and rules of the Plan that have been recorded to date.

3. Air Discharge problems in the Region

The major sources of contaminant discharges to air identified through the review are listed in Attachment 1. In the order of significance determined during the review, the major sources are motorised land transport, domestic solid fuel burning, odorous industries, industrial sources of fine particulate, outdoor burn-offs, and incineration. Agrichemical spraying has also been included in the problems identified, because of community concerns expressed during submissions on the proposed Plan. The actual scale of this problem still needs to be assessed.

4. Implementation of non-regulatory methods

Attachment 2 provides a brief summary of intended Plan implementation projects for the three years. These projects and timeframes are subject to change to accommodate staff workloads. They will be confirmed early in the 2000/2001 financial year when detailed project briefs are completed.

The projects in Attachment 2 reflect the air quality and emission problems identified in the review, except for two additional projects. One is to prepare and disseminate a pamphlet for spray painters. The Council committed to doing this as partial resolution of the Moir Street residents' Environment Court appeal on the Plan. The other is to consider any plan changes that may be necessary as a result of problems identified with the Plan.

5. Communication

Attachment 2 lists the groups and organisations that will be involved in each project. Full project briefs will be developed in co-operation with the relevant groups at the beginning of each financial year that methods are to be implemented.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

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Approved for submission:

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Attachments: 2