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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Karen Brewster, Section Leader, Policy & Planning

Wairarapa Coastal Forum – Representatives for Next Meetings

1. Purpose

To seek Committee approval for two Committee representatives to participate in further meetings to progress the development of a coastal strategy for the Wairarapa.

2. Background

2.1 In recent times there has been growing pressure to subdivide and develop along the Wairarapa coastline. This has led to wide ranging debate in local government and in the community about the appropriateness of such development.

2.2 In response to this, it was considered appropriate to hold a “Coastal Forum” to discuss the issues.

3. Discussion

3.1 The forum was held at Brackenbridge, Martinborough, on 26 February 2001, and was attended by most of the Committee, many district councillors and some officers, and one representative of Ngati Kahungunu.

3.2 For the benefit of those members who could not attend, the event was chaired by Alistair Aburn, a well respected planning consultant from Wellington, and presentations were made by the following four speakers:

- Morgan Williams (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment)
- Jim Dahm (Coastal Management Consultant)
- Rebecca Maplesden (Planner, Ministry for the Environment)
- Frank Boffa (Landscape Architect)

3.3 Questions from the floor followed each presenter, with an open discussion at the end of the day to determine how to proceed from here.

- 3.4 During this discussion each Council and Iwi expressed a commitment to work together to better address coastal development issues. More specifically, support was given that the Coastal Forum should seek to:

“Achieve agreement amongst participants to work together to better address the issues as a basis for developing a comprehensive and integrated coastal strategy for the Wairarapa”.

- 3.5 There was also general agreement that the strategic study, once agreed to between councils, should:

- occur now rather than later
- involve all four councils
- include tangata whenua, Department of Conservation, and major stakeholders/landowners
- be publicly notified and discussed

- 3.6 The forum participants acknowledged that the following issues are significant in the coastal environment and should be considered during the development of the coastal strategy:

- preservation of natural character
- land and marine use/development
- transport and roading
- infrastructure
- subdivision and settlement
- recreation and public access
- heritage
- ecology/natural process and systems
- significant landscapes
- erosion/land stability

- 3.7 To progress the development of the coastal strategy, the participants agreed that another meeting be organised with a representative from each council. The South Wairarapa District Council has already nominated two political representatives, namely Mike Gray and John Read, and therefore it has been suggested that it might be appropriate for each council to select two representatives. Once all representatives have been appointed and conveyed to this Council, the first meeting can be arranged. The Regional Council has offered to organise the first meeting.

- 3.8 The general public and major stakeholders/landowners were not involved in the forum as it was considered necessary for the councils to firstly discuss these matters inhouse. It is also not planned to include the public and interested groups in the first meeting, because this will focus on the process of developing a strategy, and determine what is the most appropriate and effective way to consider the views of major stakeholders/landowners.

- 3.9 As outlined in section 3.5, forum participants did, however, acknowledge that it is essential that the strategic study include tangata whenua. It would therefore be appropriate to invite tangata whenua representatives to the first meeting given their status under the Resource Management Act. The nature of their further involvement should be discussed at the first meeting.

4. Communication

No particular communication initiatives are considered necessary at this stage.

5. Recommendation

- (1) *That the Committee appoints two representatives to participate in further meetings to progress the development of a coastal strategy for the Wairarapa.*
- (2) *That tangata whenua be invited to send two representatives to the first meeting.*

Report prepared by:

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