

Report 01.585

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Report to Wellington Regional Council
From: Lloyd Bezett, Policy Analyst, Council Secretariat

Confirmation of Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate Revocation Special Order

1. Purpose

To consider confirming the Special Order revoking the system of differential rating that currently applies to the Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate, to enable a uniform land area rate to be created.

To recommend that Council commence the statutory processes to make its 2001/2002 Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate as a uniform land area rate applying to all properties over 10 hectares in area which are within operational areas.

2. Background

Council introduced a differential rating system for Bovine Tb rates on land area in the 1995/96 financial year.

Initially the differentials provided for 77.5% of rates levied to be funded from rural properties in operational areas and the remaining 22.5% from non-operational areas. In 1996/97 Council determined that the ratio between rates from operational and non-operational areas should change to 80:20 to reflect the increased rating base for operational functions. In 2000 this system was altered to 90:10.

At the meeting of the Council, held on 29 May 2001 the WRC resolved to accept a recommendation of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee that the current differential rating system be revoked and a uniform land area rate be established for properties within operational areas with no rate for non-operation areas.

3. Comment

3.1 Revocation of Differentiated Rate

Section 87 of the Rating Powers Act 1988 requires that where the Council revokes a system of differential rating that applies within the district of the Council, it must do so

using the Special Order procedure contained in section 716B of the Local Government Act 1974.

The Special Order procedure requires that Council put before a meeting its intention to make the Special Order, publicly notifies the fact twice thereby giving members of the public an opportunity to make submissions, and confirms the Order at a subsequent meeting. This second meeting must be held between 61 and 70 days after the first meeting or the Order lapses.

At the time of writing this report there were no submissions on this Special Order. Any submissions that are received before the Council meeting on 23 August will be tabled for the Council's consideration.

3.2 2001/02 Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate

The establishment of the new uniform land area rate will be made after the Special Order process is completed. (This does not require a Special Order). The new Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate is collected by this Council and the rates invoices are not issued until October. The penalty date for late payment of Bovine Tb Rates is 22 February 2002.

4. Communications

The Council must publicly notified its intention to make rates no less than 14 days prior to the rates being made. It is proposed that the new Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate will be advertised in *The Dominion*, *Evening Post* and *Wairarapa Times-Age* on Saturday 25 August and made at the Council meeting to be held on 27 September 2001. A copy of the draft public notice is at **Attachment 1** to this Report.

5. Recommendation

- (1) The Wellington Regional Council hereby resolves, by way of Special Order, pursuant to Section 87 of the Rating Powers Act 1988, Section 716B of the Local Government Act 1974, and all other provisions enabling it in that behalf, that the system of differential rating set out below for Bovine Tb Vector Control shall be revoked from 1 July 2001:

- (a) *The differentiated works and services rate, known as the Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate, made and levied by the Wellington Regional Council pursuant to section 44 of the Rating Powers Act 1988 on the area of all rateable property in excess of 10 hectares in that part of the Wellington Region determined by the Council to be the area of benefit of the pest destruction work, such that the rate made and levied in respect of any specified category of property shall vary from the rate made and levied in respect of any other specified category of property.*

Currently the properties in the area of benefit and the differentials have been divided into the following categories:

Category 1 - Operational Areas

Rateable land receiving a direct benefit from Council's Bovine Tb vector control works, being land situated in those areas designated on Classification Roll 1, contributing 90% of the total revenue required.

Category 2 - Non-Operational Areas

Rateable land receiving an indirect benefit from Council's Bovine Tb vector control works, being land situated in those areas designated on Classification Roll 2, contributing 10% of the total revenue required.

- (2) *That the Council publicly notify its intention to make a uniform land area rate, to be known as the Bovine Tb Vector Control Rate, on all rateable properties over 10 hectares within operational areas defined by the Council.*

Report prepared by

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