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Report to Environment Committee
from Wayne Hastie, Manager, Resource Policy

Proposed Change to Resource Policy Department Operating Plan 2001 – 2010

1. **Purpose**

To seek the Council's approval for a minor amendment to the Resource Policy Department's Operating Plan 2001 – 2010 to reallocate funding provided for the publication of *Planwell*.

2. **Background**

The Wellington Regional Council and its predecessors have been producing a document entitled *Planwell* for many years. During this time the document has been transformed in content and style, most recently being produced as three separate documents:

- *Planwell* Schools
- *Planwell* Business
- *Planwell* Community

The evolution to three separate documents occurred in an attempt to produce information targeted at specific audiences. The Resource Policy Department's Operating Plan 2001 – 2010 describes the purpose of *Planwell* as providing "an opportunity to help inform for the community about resource management issues and to provide advice and information on sustainable management."

Staff have discussed the future of *Planwell* on several occasions. The document was considered to contain valuable information that was not available from alternative publications, and hence it continued to remain a part of the Operating Plan. That situation has now changed.

3. **Environmental education initiatives**

The Council is now well advanced in the implementation of its new environmental education initiatives:

- *Take Action* focussing on schools
- *Take Charge* focussing on business
- *Take Care* focussing on care groups

All of these areas have their own promotion and information material, including a *Take Action* web site containing a regular newsletter.

4. **Is *Planwell* still necessary?**

Given the advanced stage of implementation of the Council's environmental education initiatives staff feel that *Planwell* is no longer necessary. The key target audiences and environmental messages will be delivered more effectively through the new education programmes. While *Planwell* could still be produced, staff do not consider this to be an effective use of resources. It is therefore recommended that *Planwell* not be produced this year.

5. **Implications**

Planwell has a budget of \$16,000, of which \$6000 is for printing costs and the remainder staff time. It is recommended that the budget be transferred and used as part of the implementation of the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans. In particular, the money would be used to assist the Council to prepare new silt guidelines, a recent and important project that has no specific budgetary allocation.

6. **Communication**

Subject to the Council's approval, letters will be sent to those on the *Planwell* mailing list advising them of the decision to cease production and alerting them to other sources of information.

7. **Recommendation**

That the Committee recommends that the Council:

1. *Changes the Resource Policy Department's Operating Plan 2001 – 2010 to remove the requirement to produce Planwell.*
2. *Transfers the budget for Planwell to Regional Policy Statement and regional plan implementation.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

WAYNE HASTIE
Manager, Resource Policy

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment