



Report 03.276
Date 28 May 2003
File G/4/1/3

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
Author Wayne Hastie Council Secretary

Consideration of Submissions: Towards a Sustainable Region: Greater Wellington Regional Council's Proposed Ten-Year Plan 2003 - 2013 Incorporating the 2003 - 2004 Annual Plan: Tuesday, 3 June, Thursday, 5 June and Friday, 6 June 2003

1. Purpose

To suggest a process for handling submissions both at this meeting and for the follow-up afterwards.

2. Background

This meeting completes the public consultation phase of the proposed ten-year plan 2003 – 2013, which incorporates the 2003 – 2004 Annual Plan.

The statutory process requires preparation of a statement of proposal and summary, giving public notice and inviting submissions. Submitters must be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council, which must consider all submissions and decide if it wants to make changes to the proposed plan.

2.1 Submissions Received

Report 03.278 from John Allard provides a summary of the 343 submissions received.

2.2 Comments on Submissions

Submissions have been circulated to relevant Divisional Managers for comment. All submissions and Managers' comments are available for inspection by the public on request.

2.3 **Distribution to Councillors**

A copy of all submissions received by 28 May 2003 will be sent to Councillors with this Order Paper. Managers comments will be sent as soon as they are available. Managers are preparing their comments so that they may form the basis of responses to submitters. The style of the comments is not intended to preclude Councillors from making different or additional comments. All decisions rest with the Council.

3. **Comment**

3.1 **Annual Plan Process**

3.1.1 *Oral Submissions*

A primary purpose of the meeting of the Policy, Finance & Strategy Subcommittee is to “hear” people who wish to make oral submissions in support of their written submissions. It is proposed that each person or group be given the opportunity to speak on their submission (but not to read it in full). It is a time for Councillors to listen, but there will also be an opportunity for Councillor’s questions, particularly with the aim of clarifying points made by submitters.

Thirty-three submitters have requested to be heard, and a copy of the proposed timetable is included as **Attachment 1** to this report.

3.1.2 *Written Submissions*

The meeting should consider all written submissions, regardless of whether or not an oral submission has been made.

3.2 **Process After Consideration of all Submissions**

After considering all submissions it is appropriate for the Subcommittee, if it so wishes, to propose that specific matters be further considered by the Policy, Finance & Strategy Committee at the meeting on **Monday, 16 June**. It is desirable to have management advice on funding, resource and workload implications. I suggest that the General Manager be asked to report on these matters as well as any others that could impact on the overall rate requirements.

It is proposed that formal responses be sent to persons and organisations making submissions on the basis of managers’ comments or as otherwise may be directed, following formal adoption of the proposed ten-year plan. Under the new requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, reasons must be given for the decisions made, including any decision not to take any action.

The ten-year plan 2003 – 2013 must be adopted before 1 July 2003. A Council meeting is scheduled for 30 June to enable this to occur.

The process for setting rates for the 2003 – 2004 year differs from the past as a result of changes brought about by the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Special orders are no longer required, with the public notice of proposed rates being given through the Annual Plan process. The Council will be in a position to set its rates for 2003 – 2004 on 1 July 2003, and it is proposed that they do so on that date.

4. **Recommendations**

- (1) *That the Subcommittee:*
 - (a) *Receives the report*
 - (b) *Hears the oral submissions*
 - (c) *Considers all written submissions*
 - (d) *Notes the comments and reports from officers on the submissions, and*
 - (e) *Requests the General Manager to further report on the implications of any proposals that the Subcommittee considers warrant further consideration at the meeting on 16 June as well as any other matters that will impact on rate requirements.*
- (2) *That formal responses be sent to persons and organisations making submissions on the basis of managers' comments or as otherwise may be directed, following formal adoption of the ten-year plan.*

Report prepared by:

Wayne Hastie
Council Secretary

Attachment 1: Proposed timetable for the oral submissions