



**Report** 03.423  
**Date** 23 July 2003  
**File** X/32/1/4

**Committee** Policy, Finance and Strategy  
**Author** Murray McLea Section Leader, Policy Development

## Approval of regional plan changes

### 1. Purpose

To approve four regional plan changes.

### 2. Background

Proposed changes to five of our Regional Plans were publicly notified in February 2002. These changes were:

- Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Transitional Regional Plan;
- Proposed Plan Change 1 the Regional Freshwater Plan;
- Proposed Plan Change 1 the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land;
- Proposed Plan Change 1 the Regional Air Quality Plan; and
- Proposed Plan Change 1 the Regional Soil Plan.

The primary reasons for proposing the plan changes were to withdraw the Transitional Regional Plan and to change rules regarding access to groundwater on the Kapiti Coast. It also provided an opportunity to make changes of a more minor nature to improve the plans.

Submissions were received from 21 submitters on the five proposed plan changes. Hearings were held on 19 November 2002. The Hearings Committee was Crs Ian Buchanan, Terry McDavitt, and Chris Turver. The Council approved the recommended decisions of the Hearings Committee at its meeting on 10 December 2002. These decisions were publicly advertised on 26 January 2003. Public notification of the Council's decisions gives the proposed plan changes the same force as if they were operative plans.

### 3. Four regional plan changes can now be approved

There were no references to the Environment Court on four of the proposed regional plan changes, which means the Council is now able to make them operative. It is desirable to make these four plan changes operative now because it completes the process and avoids any potential for confusion about

whether the changed provisions or the old provisions apply. To finalise the plan changes, the Council must approve the proposed changes and publicly notify the date on which they become operative, which must be at least five working days before the operative date.

Two submitters referred decisions on Plan Change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan to the Environment Court. Staff are mediating with the 2 submitters on their references. The Council cannot make this plan change operative until these references are resolved.

The plan changes are available for inspection in the Councillors' lounge or they can be obtained from Murray McLea in the Resource Policy Department. They will be tabled at the meeting.

## 4 Communications

The public process of consultation, notification, submissions, hearings, and appeals has provided plenty of opportunity to communicate the plan changes.

## 5 Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Council;*

1. **Approve** the following plan changes;
  - *Proposed Change 1 to the Transitional Regional Plan;*
  - *Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land;*
  - *Proposed Change 1 to the Regional Air Quality Management Plan;*  
*and*
  - *Proposed Change 1 to the Transitional Soil Plan.*
2. **Make** the plan changes operative on 30 August 2003.
3. **Publicly notify** the operative date for the four plan changes on 16 August 2003.
4. **Note** that approval for Plan Change 1 to the Regional Freshwater Plan will be sought from the Council once references to the Environment Court have been resolved.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Murray McLea**  
Section Leader, Policy  
Development

**Nicola Shorten**  
Manager, Resource Policy

**Jane Bradbury**  
Divisional Manager,  
Environment