



Report 04.393
Date 7 July 2004
File RE/02/02/04

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
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Wellington Regional Council (Water Board Functions) Bill Submission

1. Purpose

To obtain the Council's approval to send a submission to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Wellington Regional Council (Water Board Functions) Bill and to delegate the signing off on the submission to the Council Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

2. Background

In September last year, the Council agreed to the Wellington Regional Council (Water Board Functions) Bill (Report 03.514 **Attachment 1**) proceeding and that a local Member of Parliament would be approached to take charge of the Bill through the parliamentary process. Subsequently, the Hon. Marion Hobbs agreed to sponsor the Bill.

The Bill was duly advertised and forwarded to the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The first reading of the Bill took place in the third week of June this year and the Bill has now been referred to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee for consideration.

3. Greater Wellington Regional Council submission

As the Bill has been classified as a Local Government Bill, it has been championed by this Council and it is most appropriate that the Council makes a submission.

The Council received a letter from the Clerk of the Local Government and Environment Committee on 5 July indicating that the Committee would like the Council's submission on the Bill by 2 August. This will then be released to the public. The closing date for submissions from the public is 18 August.

While Council officers have been considering the issues for a submission, time has precluded a draft submission being prepared to go out with the Order Paper for the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting on 13 July.

Following the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting on 13 July, the next scheduled meeting of the same Committee is on 24 August, well after the requested date for the Council's submission.

It is therefore suggested that once the submission is drafted, it is forwarded to Councillors for comment, and that the Council Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson be delegated authority to approve the final submission.

Councillors have already been sent a transcript from the parliamentary debate when the Bill was introduced and a number of issues have been raised which can be addressed in the submission. Likewise, the important aspects of the Bill should also be addressed. It is likely that the submission will cover the following topics.

- The purpose of the Bill and its key features
- A distinction between Council lands and Reserve Act lands
- A distinction between "Water Board land" and other Council land such as Regional Parks
- GW consultation processes and management plans for the various Council lands
- The RMA process and the relationship to the Bill
- Comment on the definition of electrical installations
- Comment on the section in the Bill that allows any electrical works to be undertaken by the Council or any party invited by the Council
- Comment on the possible processes for developing electricity generation.

It is intended that the draft submission will be available and submitted to Councillors before the end of the third week in July, allowing about a week for comments to be received and the submission finalised.

4. Communication

The Council's submission will be forwarded to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee recommends to Council that it:

1. *receives the report and notes its content, and in particular, that a draft submission will be forwarded to Councillors for comment.*
2. *delegates authority to the Council Chairperson (or in her absence, the Deputy Chairperson) to approve the Council submission to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Wellington Regional Council (Water Board Functions) Bill.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Wayne Hastie
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Attachment 1: Report 03.514 Water Board Functions Bill