

Report 05.179
Date 26 April 2005
File WP/02/02/05

Committee Rural Services Wairarapa Committee
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Draft Combined Wairarapa District Plan Overview

1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with an overview on Greater Wellington's involvement in the Draft Combined Wairarapa District Plan (DCWDP) process.

2. Background

Three years ago the South Wairarapa District Council, Carterton District Council and Masterton District Council decided to write one District Plan in order to provide consistency throughout the three districts. A District Plan Committee was formed which has political representatives from each council. The draft Combined Wairarapa District Plan was released for public comment in December 2004. Once the draft is finalised a formal Resource Management Act process will be followed.

3. Greater Wellington's comments on the Draft

The comments on the DWCDP were submitted on Friday 4 March 2005. The main issues were;

- Incorporating the outcomes of the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy.

Greater Wellington sought the creation of a Coastal Environment chapter and a Freshwater Environment chapter as opposed to both environments being addressed in one chapter. Greater Wellington also requested that the issues, policies, and recommendations from the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy be included into the Coastal Environment chapter to address matters such as: coastal hazards and coastal subdivision. Doing this would reflect the widespread consultative process undertaken for the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy and the community support for the Strategy.

- The 1ha minimum lot size in the Rural Zone

Greater Wellington raised concerns about: reverse sensitivity, the viability of rural industries and the loss of productive soils; wastewater disposal; and discouraging innovative development.

- The lack of protection for biodiversity

Greater Wellington's comments focused on the need for identification of issues, the identification of significant natural areas and adequate rules for protecting these and other areas of biodiversity.

4. Developments on Greater Wellington's comments

The District Council Planners organised to meet with Greater Wellington planners on the 22 March to discuss Greater Wellington's comments. The main issues of concern for Greater Wellington were discussed openly with some possible outcomes suggested.

Greater Wellington also presented our main concerns at the Joint Planning Committee meeting on 4 April. It was agreed that further meetings at an officer level would be held to consider the issues raised by Greater Wellington.

5. Conclusion

The District Councils intend to have the Proposed Combined Wairarapa District Plan publicly notified on 15 July 2005. Prior to this, further meetings and/or workshops with the District Council planners and possibly the Planning Committee will be necessary to agree on how Greater Wellington's concerns be addressed. No dates have been set at this stage.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and the information noted.

Report prepared by:

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