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Committee Planning and Monitoring Subcommittee  
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## Summary of Submissions Received on the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan and LTCCP amendment

### 1. Purpose

To provide an overview of the submissions Greater Wellington has received from the public on the proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan (which also incorporates a proposed amendment to section 2.1 of the Revenue and Financing Policy in the 2006-16 Ten Year Plan or LTCCP – *transport funding*).

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report are part of the Special Consultative Procedure as required by section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

The consultation period on the proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan ran from 5 April to 7 May 2007. A total of 80 submissions have been received and copies circulated to councillors for consideration (together with printouts from our submissions database which includes submission summaries and manager's responses). A few late submissions have also been accepted and processed. A total of 22 submitters have asked to be heard.

Councillors are required to consider all written and oral submissions and make recommendations for any proposed changes to the Annual Plan resulting from the submissions process. Council officers will then report back to Councillors in relation to these matters on 12 June 2007.

## **4. Comment**

### **4.1 Origin of submissions**

The table below shows the numbers of submissions which have come from organisations, local authorities, government departments and individuals.

Organisations (including community groups)	15
Local Government	3
Central Government	2
Individuals	60

### **4.2 Submitters' responses to key issues**

An Annual Plan summary newspaper was sent to all households in the region. This identified key projects proposed for 2007/08, and key changes from the 2006-16 Ten Year Plan (LTCCP), categorised by seven activity groups. The summary document also provided 2007/08 rating information and details of the proposed LTCCP amendment to the Revenue and Financing Policy. Most of the submissions we received related to these matters, with the vast majority being transport issues. Below is a compilation of submitters' common responses to key issues. Many submitters commented on a range of issues.

#### **4.2.1 Environment**

Approximately 20 submitters commented in this area, largely in support of Council's investment in the environment. In particular, a number of sustainability issues were mentioned, including waste reduction, energy conservation and alternative energy sources. A few submitters commented on pollution, and a few raised the issue of climate change.

#### **4.2.2 Transport**

The vast majority of submissions related to transport (approximately 60 submitters), with a large number supporting the Council's steps to improve public transport in the Wellington region. Several submitters commented on service levels, requesting greater reliability, regularity and transport links. Others objected to the large amount of rates funding.

Approximately 15 submissions were received relating to rail infrastructure, including compliments for the purchase of new trains; another submitter stated that we should buy "quality" trains rather than the cheaper trains. One submitter questioned whether there are enough new trains to meet demand. The need for double-tracking was also a common theme in many submissions. A few submitters also commented that there was a need to have safe parking spaces for cycles at railway stations and one submitter requested the Council acquire railway carriages that have enough room to carry cycles safely.

A number of submitters commented that providing parking at railway stations was essential. One submitter requested parking at Wellington Railway Station for commuters from Wellington.

### **4.2.3 Water Supply**

Less than 10 submissions were received relating to the region's water supply. The majority of submitters who commented on water supply were not in favour of developing a new water source. These submitters believed more emphasis should be placed on water conservation, re-use of grey water and rain water collection. One submitter suggested water metering as a way to conserve water.

### **4.2.4 Parks**

Approximately 20 submitters commented on parks in the Wellington region. Submissions ranged from requesting more walkways and cycleways along the coast to suggesting that regional parks be more accessible by public transport. A large proportion of these submissions complimented the Council on its regional parks. There were a few submissions received on both Lake Wairarapa and Whitireia Park.

### **4.2.5 Flood Protection**

Less than 10 submitters commented specifically on flood protection. Of these, a few commented on the deferment of flood protection work and three submitters addressed the Waiwhetu Stream investigations. One submitter expressed concern that the Annual Plan does not provide for flood protection work on the Waiwhetu Stream and another felt that the solutions offered in the Annual Plan address the symptoms and not the actual problems.

### **4.2.6 Land**

Approximately 15 submissions were received in this area, of which most were concerned with the management of pest plants and pest animals in the region. The majority of submitters who commented on pest management were pleased with the work that was being done, but a number stated that more work was required to control pests in certain areas. One submitter was opposed to the \$73,000 reduction in expenditure on Bovine Tb vector control.

Three submitters made comments on the Waikanae River. One suggested a footbridge be installed across the river while another requested funding to remove inappropriate plant species and prepare the land for longterm planting.

### **4.2.7 Wellington Regional Strategy**

There were approximately 20 submissions received objecting to the Wellington Regional Strategy. Submitters raised a number of issues, including that this was not Greater Wellington's role, and it should not be funded by rates.

### **4.2.8 Other**

Approximately 20 submitters commented on other miscellaneous issues, mainly relating to general matters regarding the Annual Plan, for example the financial information provided, and many also commented on our targets and indicators.

#### 4.2.9 Rates

There were approximately 20 submissions received on rates issues, with a large number of submitters objecting to rates increases. Specific comments were made that the increase was above the level of inflation and it was hard to see how they received additional benefits. There was a general concern regarding more money being demanded from ratepayers, and a number of alternative options were suggested including using more targeted rates (several submitters commented on the level of rates funding public transport), and using debt to fund projects which would have the effect of reducing the rate burden on ratepayers. Several submitters also commented that the Council should spend less by focusing on its core activities. There was also some concern about the inequality of rating across the region.

#### 4.2.10 LTCCP amendment to the Revenue and Financing Policy

Approximately 15 submitters commented on the proposed amendment to section 2.1 of the Revenue and Financing Policy in the LTCCP. The majority of submissions were in support of the amendment to debt fund certain rail infrastructure assets over a longer period. A small number of submitters voiced reservations to the amendment, including concerns that this change in policy would result in future rate rises. One submitter commented that the Council will not have an asset to cover the cost of borrowing and asked why the Council has not told ratepayers that an unsecured loan such as the one proposed could only be secured by ratepayers.

### 5. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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