

Statement of compliance and responsibility



137

Compliance

The Council and management of Greater Wellington Regional Council confirm that all the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to the Annual Report have been complied with.

Responsibility

The Council and management of Greater Wellington Regional Council accept responsibility for the preparation of the annual financial statements and judgements used in them.

The Council and management of Greater Wellington Regional Council accept responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In the opinion of the Council and management of Greater Wellington Regional Council, the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006 fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Ian Buchanan
Chairman
17 October 2006

David Benham
Chief Executive
17 October 2006

Barry Turfrey
Chief Financial Officer
17 October 2006

TO THE READERS OF WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL AND GROUP'S ANNUAL REPORT**For the year ended 30 June 2006**

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Wellington Regional Council (the Regional Council) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Rudie Tomlinson, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out an audit on his behalf. The audit covers the Regional Council's compliance with the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report of the Regional Council and group for the year ended 30 June 2006, including the financial statements.

Unqualified opinion

In our opinion:

- The financial statements of the Regional Council and group on pages 20 to 54:
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
 - fairly reflect:
 - the Regional Council and group's financial position as at 30 June 2006; and
 - the results of operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
- The service provision information of the Regional Council and group on pages 55 to 136 fairly reflects the levels of service provision as measured against the intended levels of service provision adopted, as well as the reasons for any significant variances, for the year ended on that date *and*
- The Regional Council has complied with the other requirements of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 that apply to the annual report (the "other requirements").

The audit was completed on 17 October 2006, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Regional Council and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

Basis of opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards.

We planned and performed the audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements and the other requirements did not have material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements and the other requirements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

The audit involved performing procedures to test the information presented in the financial statements and the other requirements. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

Audit procedures generally include:

- determining whether significant financial and management controls are working and can be relied on to produce complete and accurate data;
- verifying samples of transactions and account balances;

- performing analyses to identify anomalies in the reported data;
- reviewing significant estimates and judgements made by the Council;
- confirming year-end balances;
- determining whether accounting policies are appropriate and consistently applied; and
- determining whether all required disclosures are adequate.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements and the other requirements.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and the other requirements. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support our opinion above.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The Council is responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Those financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the Regional Council and group as at 30 June 2006. They must also fairly reflect the results of operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date. The Council is also responsible for preparing the information in the other requirements, including service provision information that must reflect the Council's level of service provision. The Council's responsibilities arise from Section 98 and Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and the other requirements and reporting that opinion to you.

This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and section 99 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Independence

When carrying out the audit we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

During the year we reviewed the tendering processes over the Greater Wellington Rail Project for the Regional Council and group, which is compatible with those independence requirements.

Other than this assignment, the audit and in conducting the audits of the Long Term Council Community Plan and the amendment to the Long Term Council Community Plan, we have no relationship with or interests in the Regional Council or any of its subsidiaries.



R L Tomlinson

Audit New Zealand

On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand

MATTERS RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This audit report relates to the financial statements of Wellington Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2006 included on Wellington Regional Council's web site. The Wellington Regional Council's Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Wellington Regional Council's web site. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the Wellington Regional Council's web site. We accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the web site.

The audit report refers only to the financial statements named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements. If readers of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communication they should refer to the published hard copy of the audited financial statements and related audit report dated 17 October 2006 to confirm the information included in the audited financial statements presented on this web site.

Legislation in New Zealand governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.