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Committee Proposed Regional Policy Statement Hearing
Committee
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Process for considering submissions on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement

1. Purpose

To outline the process for considering submissions at this meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

This report sets out the process for considering submissions on the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region. Consultation on the proposed Regional Policy Statement has been consistent with the decision-making requirements set out in both the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991. The Committee is not being asked to make a decision to which the decision-making requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 apply.

3. Background

3.1 Public Consultation

This meeting completes the public consultation phase on the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region. The Committee must consider all oral and written submissions it receives at this meeting, and decide if it wishes to recommend to Council consequent changes to the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region.

3.2 Principles of consultation

Six principles of consultation are set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). One of these principles is that views presented to a local authority should be accepted with an open mind, and should be given due consideration by the local authority, in making a decision.

It is consistent with best practice that members hearing submissions must be present for the duration of the hearing of the oral submissions.

3.3 Submissions received

Greater Wellington received 144 submissions on the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region. Copies of the submissions and officers' responses have been distributed to members of the Committee.

4. Proposed plan submission process

4.1 Oral presentations

The purpose of this meeting is to hear oral presentations in support of written submissions. At the time of writing, 60 submitters have requested that they be heard.

Times of varying lengths have been allocated to each submitter according to their wishes. A copy of the Hearing Schedule is appended to this report.

4.2 Written submissions

The Committee must consider all written submissions, regardless of whether or not an oral submission has been made. It is suggested that written submissions are taken as read by the Committee, and that members only discuss those submissions on which they want to make a particular comment or seek officers' response.

4.3 Consideration of issues raised in submissions

The principles of consultation, set out in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, apply to the submission process. It is important that committee members retain an open mind in the consideration of submissions. Members must be present for the hearings and deliberations in order to participate in the decision making of the committee. There will be an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in both written and oral submissions once all submissions have been heard.

4.4 Process after consideration of submissions

The Committee's recommendations on the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region will be sent to the Council for approval once decision reports are completed.

Formal responses will be sent to submitters following the final decision on the proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Considers** all written and oral submissions in the manner set out in section 4 of this report.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Regional Policy Statement Hearings Schedule