

Report 11.108
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Committee Regional Transport
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Draft Regional Freight Plan for consultation

1. Purpose

This report seeks approval from the Committee for the draft Regional Freight Plan to be released for public consultation.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Consideration

The current Regional Freight Plan was adopted in July 2007. This is a scheduled review.

A background report was prepared to collate the latest available information on freight movements in, out and through the Wellington region as well as examine qualitative information on issues, changes and opportunities.

The report used information from three principle sources:

- National Freight Demands Study 2008
- Hyder Wellington Freight Analysis 2009
- 2009/10 Annual Monitoring Report on the Wellington RLTS

A questionnaire was sent out to transport network providers (ie. New Zealand Transport Agency, KiwiRail, CentrePort, Wellington International Airport, local councils), freight user groups, advocacy associations and other interested parties (such as the Wellington and Wairarapa chambers of commerce, Automobile Association, etc.).

The questionnaire aimed to identify issues facing the freight sector, opportunities to improve the efficiency of freight movements, information gaps and significant changes in freight movements in, out and through the Wellington region over the next 5 to 10 years.

The technical working group was convened, consisting of representatives from Greater Wellington, the region's Territorial Authorities, New Zealand Transport Agency, KiwiRail, Ministry of Transport, CentrePort, Wellington International Airport, Wellington Employers' Chamber of Commerce, Automobile Association, and several freight sector industry groups.

The group considered the background report and developed a draft action programme.

The draft Wellington Regional Freight Plan 2011 is included with this report as **Attachment 1**.

3.1 Key changes from existing plan

Since the adoption of the current Freight Plan there have been a number of changes to the context within which we are planning. These include: the growth of just-in-time delivery of services; the consolidation of freight distribution hubs (two of which are in Seaview and Palmerston North); trends pointing towards a doubling of the amount of freight moving throughout New Zealand in the next 30 years; and the price of diesel expected to become more volatile but increase overall.

The draft Freight Plan 2011 responds to these changes by broadening the scope of the action programme. It now includes relevant work being done at a national level by the NZ Transport Agency (namely the Roads of National Significance and the introduction of over-weight over-dimension commercial vehicles) and the KiwiRail Turnaround Plan which focuses on improving the reliability and economic performance of rail freight. Improving access to CentrePort and the ferry terminals is a new key focus. The other new focus is improving the knowledge base of how freight moves in the region and Greater Wellington's freight modelling capability.

4. Communication

Consultation is planned to be held over the four weeks between 4 and 29 April 2011.

This draft Freight Plan will be of most interest to those organisations within the freight sector. Organisations that represent the freight sector were invited to comment on the preliminary background report and participate in the technical working group meeting. Others who may have an interest are the region's road controlling authorities, network providers and community boards.

Therefore it is proposed to communicate and invite feedback on the draft plan using the following:

- Media release
- Public notice in regional newspapers (Dominion Post and Wairarapa Times Age)
- GWRC website
- Mail out to key stakeholders and interest groups.

5. Hearing sub-committee

A hearing sub-committee will be required to hear submissions on the draft Freight Plan in May. This is because the Freight Plan is expected to be approved by the Committee at the next meeting – 29 June 2011.

5.1 Scope of Sub-committee's role

It is recommended that the sub-committee be established to hear, evaluate and report on submissions, and make recommendations to the Committee. The sub-committee will have the opportunity to ask questions of those submitters who present their submissions orally and have matters clarified where necessary.

The subcommittee will also spend some time discussing the submissions and deliberating on the matters raised. This will give it the ability to consider the submissions in some depth.

5.2 Sub-committee membership

All members of the Committee are eligible for appointment to a hearings subcommittee.

It is consistent with best practice and the requirements of the Local Government Act that members hearing submissions must be present for the duration of the hearing of the oral submissions. The only constraint, therefore, is the availability on the day of hearings and deliberations.

It is recommended that four Committee members be appointed to the sub-committee. Those members of the Committee not appointed to the sub-committee are welcome to attend the hearings.

As well as sub-committee members, a chair will need to be appointed.

5.3 Quorum and standing orders

The Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders will apply to the sub-committee. This is provided for in the Terms of Reference (**Attachment 2**).

Consistent with the provisions for the Committee, the Chair of the hearings sub-committee will have a deliberative vote, but not a casting vote.

When deciding on a quorum it is important to consider the risks that illness or other unanticipated commitments may prevent a committee member from attending part of the hearings.

In this case a half day is expected to be needed for the hearings with further time potentially required for deliberations. To minimise inconvenience to submitters as a result of needing to reschedule the hearings, a quorum of two members is recommended.

6. Next steps

The key steps and expected time frames are shown in the following table.

Key Step	Who	Timing	Status
Process report to RTC	GW	14 September 2010	Complete
Drafting of background and issues document	GW officers with TWG	September – November	Complete
Revise background and issues document	GW officers with TWG	January – February	Complete
Technical working group meeting	GW officers with TWG	2 March	Occurred
Draft action programme for new Freight Plan	GW officers with TWG	March	Complete
Approve draft Freight Plan for consultation	RTC	29 March	This report
Consultation		4 – 29 April	
Hearing	Hearing Subcommittee	May	
Draft Regional Freight Plan for approval	RTC	29 June 2011	

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Agrees** to release the draft *Regional Freight Plan*, as set out in **Attachment 1**, for public consultation.
4. **Delegates** to the Chair of the *Regional Transport Committee* authority to approve any final amendments to the draft plan resulting from this Committee meeting.
5. **Resolves** to establish a hearing sub-committee to hear, evaluate and report on the submissions to the draft *Regional Freight Plan* and make recommendations to the Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference in **Attachment 2**.
6. **Appoints** ..., ..., ... and ... and appoints ... as Chair of the hearing subcommittee.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Luke Troy
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Attachment 1: Draft Regional Freight Plan, March 2011

Attachment 2: Terms of Reference for the draft Regional Freight Plan 2011 Hearing Sub-committee