

Report 12.225  
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Committee Council  
Author Chair, Long-Term Plan 2012-22 Hearing Committee

## Report of the Long-Term Plan 2012-22 Hearing Committee

### 1. Purpose

This report outlines the recommendations of the Long-Term Plan 2012-22 Hearing Committee (the Committee) on the draft Long-Term Plan 2012-22 and 2012/13 Annual Plan (the draft Plan) arising from the consideration of written and oral submissions and other relevant information.

### 2. The decision-making process and significance

The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Council making a decision of high significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002. The decision-making process is explicitly prescribed for by the Local Government Act 2002 and includes the use of the special consultative procedure.

### 3. Background

In total 1326 written submissions were received. The number of submissions grouped by type of organisation is as follows:

Organisations (including community groups)	81
Local government	6
Central government	3
Individuals	<u>1236</u>
Total	1326

A summary of the written submissions was prepared for consideration by the Committee, along with comments and recommendations from officers (Attachment 1 to Report 12.195).

The Summary of the draft Plan included nine specific key proposals on which feedback was requested. Submitters were requested to indicate whether they

supported the proposals or not. The table below summarises the responses of all submitters who expressed a preference.

**Table 1: Key proposals presented in the Summary of the draft Plan**

	% support <sup>1</sup>
1. Do you support continuing our current levels of service for existing activities?	87%
2. Do you support continuing to meet our commitments to provide long-term infrastructure for the region?	88%
3. Do you support continuing with the feasibility work for the Wairarapa Water Use Project?	65%
4. Do you support the proposal for electronic integrated ticketing for public transport?	61%
5. Do you support additional funding for sustainable land management programmes?	73%
6. Do you support the extension of pest control programmes?	80%
7. Do you support the proposed improvements to regional parks?	77%
8. Do you support the additional funding to earthquake strengthen Greater Wellington buildings or co-location with other local authorities if practicable?	74%
9. Do you support the establishment of an emergency management hub?	77%
10. Do you support selling our forestry cutting rights?	58%
11. Do you support selling surplus land?	51%

Further information was also provided to the Committee on the results of other consultation exercises. This included independent market research (Attachment 2 to Report 12.195), and an online discussion forum.

Additional information was also provided to the Committee on the earthquake risks associated with Greater Wellington buildings, that was not available when the draft Plan was prepared (Attachment 3 to Report 12.195).

The Committee met from 21-23 May to consider the submissions received including hearing 68 oral submissions.

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<sup>1</sup> This was calculated as the percentage of submitters who marked "Yes" on the submission form or indicated support for the proposal in their submission out of the total number of submissions made on the proposal.

#### 4. Deliberations

The Committee reviewed and considered all the written submissions, the matters raised by oral submissions, and the additional information and consultation responses provided. Consideration was given to each separate topic identified in the summary of submissions, along with the officers recommendations.

The Committee concluded that:

- Further information would be requested from officers on the legal basis for continuing fluoridation of drinking water
- That the officers recommendations on the proposed sale of surplus land (contained in Attachment 1 to Report 12.195) should be accepted. This would provide for the sale of the Mangapakeha block to proceed once the extension of the Akura Nursery is completed, while the sale of the Mangaroa and Maungakotukutuku blocks would not be included in the Long-Term Plan 2012-22. Officers were requested to investigate and report back on the issues raised in submissions relating to the potential sale of these blocks in preparation for the 2013/14 Annual Plan.
- The Regional Council Centre was not an acceptable long term option for the Council due to its earthquake prone status and requested officers to investigate and report back on options for short-term accommodation by September 2012. It was noted that this would result in additional costs that would have to be reflected in the Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

In light of these additional costs, and noting the general economic environment and people's restricted ability to pay more, the Committee gave careful consideration to all budget provisions in the draft Plan, particularly areas proposed for additional expenditure. The Committee noted the broad support in the submissions for Greater Wellington's existing programmes and commitments and the results of the independent market research that indicated a broad willingness to pay for improved services. The Committee concluded that it would recommend to Council that they ask officers to find additional savings that will help to minimise any rates increases and keep the average rate line below 5% for the 2012/13 Annual Plan.

#### 5. Recommendations

*That the Council:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.
3. **Requests** the officers to investigate and recommend options, including those relating to our buildings in Attachment 3 to Report 12.195, which would bring the average rate line below 5% in 2012/13.

Report approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

**Cr Barbara Donaldson**  
Chair, Long-Term Plan 2012-22 Hearing  
Committee