

Report 12.6  
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy Committee  
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## Draft Proposal to continue the Wellington Regional Strategy Activity

### 1. Purpose

To provide the Committee with the Draft Proposal to continue the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) activity, to be included as part of Greater Wellington's proposed Long Term Plan 2012-2022.

This is necessary because the WRS multi-party agreement requires Greater Wellington to undertake the process under section 16 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002), or a similar process, if it wishes to continue to carry out the function of regional economic development after 30 June 2012. Section 16 is not directly relevant because Greater Wellington is not starting a new activity that territorial authorities in the region are already undertaking. However, the process being followed is similar to the process set out in section 16.

### 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 significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002, as apply to Long-term Plans.

### 3. Discussion

Greater Wellington is required to adopt its Long Term Plan 2012-2022 by 30 June 2012. The Proposal for continuing the Wellington Regional Strategy activity will form part of Greater Wellington's proposed Long Term Plan, which will be released for public consultation on 26 March.

The draft Proposal is in **Attachment 1**.

Subject to decisions on the role and composition of the WRS Committee (see separate report on the agenda – Report 12.8), the key elements of this proposal are:

- Greater Wellington retains responsibility on behalf of the region for hosting the WRS Committee and the WRS Office:
  - The WRS Committee continues to oversee decision making and governance of the WRS. The WRS Committee will comprise the chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council, representatives from each of the region's eight local councils, and five non-local government appointees who represent established networks within the region.
  - The WRS Office continues to support the implementation, monitoring and review of the WRS.
- Grow Wellington (a council controlled organisation of Greater Wellington) continues as the region's economic development agency.
- Greater Wellington, on behalf of the region, continues to fund the delivery of the WRS (including Grow Wellington and the WRS Office) through a targeted rate for economic development initiatives from 1 July 2012. Funding for the WRS for the 2012-2022 period is proposed at \$4.6 million per year, the same as the level of funding in 2011/12. The allocation of funding is to be split at \$4 million for Grow Wellington and \$600,000 for the WRS Office and the work of the WRS Committee.

It is proposed to continue a targeted rate allocated on a fixed-amount basis for residential and rural ratepayers. It is allocated on capital value for businesses. For residential properties, the fixed amount is \$14.00 + GST and rural properties \$28.00 + GST

## **4. Process**

### **4.1 Proposal**

Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan and associated summary document will be released for public consultation on 26 March, and the consultation period will close on 4 May. The WRS proposal will be highlighted in the Greater Wellington material and a separate submission form provided. The WRS Committee will hear and consider submissions on the WRS proposal and make a recommendation to Greater Wellington on how the Council should respond to the submissions.

The hearing for the WRS Proposal is scheduled for 17 May 2012, and Greater Wellington Regional Council will approve the Long Term Plan on 27 June 2012.

It is proposed that the WRS Committee delegate to a sub-committee the hearing of submissions. A paper outlining this process will be presented to the 17 April meeting of the Committee for confirmation.

### **4.2 Multi-party Agreement**

Following the adoption of Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan, and assuming that all of the Wellington region's local authorities have agreed on the approach, the WRS multi-party agreement will need to be revised to reflect

the changes being made to the activity, and signed by all the councils in the region.

## 5. **Funding decisions**

Under the WRS Committee Terms of Reference, decisions on the recommended quantum of funding required for the Wellington Regional Strategy, the recommended targeted rate, and any decision resulting in a statutory consultation process under the LGA 2002 require a 75% majority vote. All committee members have an equal vote on this matter.

## 6. **Communication**

The Proposal will be advertised and consulted on as part of Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan.

## 7. **Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Resolves to recommend to Greater Wellington that the attached Proposal be included in Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan 2012-2022, subject to any changes agreed at the meeting.*

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Attachment 1: Wellington Regional Strategy Draft Proposal