

Report 99.117
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Report to the Policy and Finance Committee
from Greg Schollum, Chief Financial Officer

Facing the Future 1997-2007: 1999 Update

1. Purpose

To gain approval for the Council's Proposed Long-Term Financial Strategy, *Facing the Future 1997-2007:1999 Update* (incorporating the 1999/2000 Annual Plan).

2. What is this document?

A draft of the Proposed *Facing the Future 1997-2007:1999 Update* accompanies this Order Paper as a separate volume. *Facing the Future 1997-2007:1999 Update* has been prepared under the Local Government Amendment Act (No 3) 1996 and is both, an update of this Council's Long-Term Financial Strategy and its 1999/2000 Annual Plan.

These documents are combined because we consider it more useful for our ratepayers and stakeholders to see how our Annual Plan fits within the context of our long-term planning horizon.

As Councillors will be aware the next Long Term Financial Strategy 2000–2010 will be released by the Council this time next year (March 2000).

3. The Process

Facing the Future 1997-2007:1999 Update is a further update of *Facing the Future 1997-2007*, although this time it has only one year of relatively “firm” numbers and seven years “softer” numbers. As agreed, priorities set during

the last Operation Emerald have not been revisited. Similarly, we have adhered to the disciplines set by last year's "hard" numbers with a few exceptions (e.g. the recent floods and Total Mobility).

4. The Format

The format of the document is similar to that followed this time last year in the 1998 update.

A new section has been added immediately following the Chairman's introduction on "Our relationship with Iwi". In the view of officers it is important to afford this section a prominent place in the document.

5. What Happens Next?

It is intended the document be released for public comment on 27 April 1999 and submissions would close on 28 May 1999. Some changes are necessary to the meeting timetable previously approved by Council for meetings to consider submissions and finalise the *Facing the Future* update. The originally agreed dates, and those now proposed, are:

Previously agreed dates:	Dates now proposed:	
20 April	29 April	Special Council to consider change to Transport Rate Differential Special Order.
3-4 June	10-11 June	Policy and Finance Subcommittee to consider oral and written submissions.
24 June	29 June	Policy and Finance Committee and Special Regional Council finalise matters to be included in <i>Facing the Future</i> .
29 June	7 July	Policy and Finance Committee and Special Council to consider formal adoption of <i>Facing the Future Update</i> . Confirm Special Order.

The timeframe for the making of Council's 1999/2000 Rates would not be effected by these changes.

Some other changes to our meeting programme will be necessary as a consequence. These will be reported on at the 8 April Council meeting.

6. Recommendations

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *That Council approves (for public consultation) the proposed Facing the Future 1997-2007:1999 Update, incorporating the 1999/2000 Annual Plan, which incorporates all changes required as a result of Council's consideration of Reports 99.123 and 99.99 in relation to the level of rates and water levies in 1999/2000, subject to minor editorial changes approved by the Chairman and General Manager.*
- (3) *That the approved Council meeting timetable be amended to provide for meetings as set out in section 5 of this report.*

GREG SCHOLLUM
Chief Financial Officer