

## **Report 00.438**

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Report to the Environment Committee  
from Geoff Skene, Manager, Environment Co-ordination

### **Regional Policy Statement Implementation 1999/2000**

#### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of progress in implementing the Regional Policy Statement during the 1999/2000 financial year.

#### **2. Background**

This is the fifth annual report on progress in implementing the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). This report complements other reports on RPS projects which have come before the Committee throughout the year and my six weekly Manager's report on RPS projects.

#### **3. Relationship With the RPS Implementation Plan**

In previous years this Report made reference to the *RPS Implementation Plan* so that Councillors could be assured that the requirements of the Plan had been met. This was because the Performance Indicator for this area of work required adherence to the implementation timetable outlined in that Plan. This year this report does not make reference to the RPS Implementation Plan because the Performance Indicator has been changed. This was done to enable the implementation of the regional plans to be considered alongside that of the RPS. Both are now expected to be implemented "to the satisfaction of the Council".

This report is designed to demonstrate to the Committee that significant progress is being made and that Councillors can be well satisfied with the implementation of the RPS this year. Report 00.425 in this Order Paper provides a similar summation for the implementation of the regional plans.

#### 4. **Relationship with *Measuring Up***

The state of the environment report for the Wellington Region, *Measuring Up*, is the accountability device for the RPS. It tells how well we are doing in achieving the Policy Statement's resource management objectives. This implementation report refers to the findings of *Measuring Up* when discussing the work of the last year to show how the implementation of the RPS is addressing the environmental problems of the Region.

This is the first time the linkage between the state of the environment and our RPS activities has been included in this report.

#### 5. **A Year of Achievement**

Like last year's report, this one looks broadly at the contributions being made to implement the RPS by departments across the Regional Council. As usual, this occurs through an extraordinary array of activities.

This year, however, has seen not only widespread achievement but also, through the development of the Long Term Financial Strategy, proposals to extend the implementation of the RPS in several key areas, most notably ecosystems and biodiversity, water quality, air quality, and waste management. This represents a significant step up in effort and will, if adopted by the Council, enable it to fulfil its statutory obligation to give effect to its RPS to a much greater degree.

The Environmental Education and Communication Initiative will also make an enormous contribution to meeting the RPS's objectives. This will occur as the number of care groups doing local restoration projects grows steadily, as businesses become more environmentally responsible, and as young people become more aware of the importance of freshwater and the "web of life" around them.

#### 6. **Communications**

The completion of the year's RPS tasks focuses attention on the diversity of the Council's activities. Communicating that diversity is difficult in a press release, given the range of topics and the ongoing nature of much of the work. Discrete aspects of the activities described in this report are publicised throughout the year.

**7. Recommendation**

*That the Committee accepts the Report as evidence of the Council's implementation of the Regional Policy Statement for 1999/2000.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment

