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Report to Environment Committee
from John Holmes, Section Leader, Policy Advice

Regional Council Input to District Planning

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of Regional Council input to the statutory resource management processes of territorial authorities in the western part of the Region.

2. Overview

2.1 Resource Consents

Six notified resource consent applications were received in the period since the last report to Committee. A submission has been made on one application, a subdivision proposal in Ohariu Valley Road, requesting further information about effluent disposal.

Additionally, a letter has been written to All Track Adventures. A submission was not made, but the letter directed the applicants to some points about effluent disposal issues and obligations under the Regional Freshwater Plan.

The following is an update on progress with submissions made on earlier consent applications.

Woolworth's Supermarket, Lower Hutt

Evidence was presented on transport matters to the hearing, and a decision has been released. While the decision does address a number of access concerns raised, officers need to assess whether conditions attached to the consent are sufficient in this regard, or whether an appeal should be lodged.

There is likely to be another supermarket development in close proximity to the Woolworth's site, and the consultants for this upcoming proposal have indicated that they will be anxious to meet with Regional Council staff to discuss the transport (and other) issues that were raised at the Woolworth's supermarket hearing.

Grenada North Subdivision, Wellington

The hearing for this subdivision began in February, and was reconvened in early April. The Regional Council's concerns were about transport connections, the impact on a stand of bush, and a policy inconsistency in that the proposal was contrary to the concept of urban containment in the District Plan.

A decision is still awaited.

District Plans

Kapiti Coast District Council

There are numerous changes, either proposed or in draft form, on the Kapiti Coast District Plan. At the last count, these numbered in excess of 90.

Submissions have been made during the last year or so on some of changes 1-30, and earlier reports address the concerns raised.

A submission has recently been made covering parts of Changes 31-36. The submission had three points. First, on Change 32, the Regional Council opposed the inclusion of some macrocarpa trees in Queen Elizabeth Park in the Heritage Register of the District Plan. The trees will be removed as part of the scheme to upgrade SH1 at MacKays Crossing.

Secondly, in relation to Change 34, the Council supported the amendments proposed with regard to standards for effluent disposal and removing duplication with the Regional Plan for Discharges to Land. On this Change, the Regional Council also supported the inclusion of controlled activity standards that will ensure that lots in non-reticulated new subdivisions can accommodate on-site effluent disposal systems.

Thirdly, on Change 36, Removal of Vegetation, the Regional Council supported the amendments because they differentiated between native vegetation in general and native vegetation endemic or naturally occurring in the Kapiti Coast. The amendments also differentiated between restoration and amenity planting of indigenous trees and those planted specifically for harvesting. Finally, the proposed definition of minor trimming was an advance as it recognised that there is a range of legitimate reasons for trimming vegetation.

Further submissions are now being sought on these Plan Changes with a closing date of 24 May 2001.

Changes 37-51 are in draft form, and while officers have given some comments, formal opportunity to make a submission will be available when these Changes are notified in the next few months. Changes 52 upwards are still to be worked up to draft form but the timetable for draft comments extends up until Christmas 2001.

Hutt City Council

The Hearing for Significant Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources is to be held on April 30th. Officers will give evidence on two relatively minor matters, the

majority of the Regional Council's requests having been recommended for approval (wholly or in part) in the Officer Report.

Road designations

A Notice of Requirement for the upgrade to *SH2 between Dowse Drive and Petone* has been notified. The closing date for submissions is 29 May 2001.

A Notice of Requirement for Stage 1 of the upgrade of the *MacKays Crossing section of SH 1* is expected to be notified on 30 April. As yet, there is no formal closing date for submissions. Officers have been in consultation with Transit's consultants prior to notification to address a range of matters relating to a new entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park and the future management and restoration of wetlands in the area. It is expected that these matters will be addressed in the Notice of Requirement.

In relation to *SH 58*, officers have met with Transit's representatives and have resolved all of the Regional Council's concerns.

The Regional Council's appeal on the *Transmission Gully Notice of Requirement* has been the subject of recent negotiation. It is expected that agreement will be reached on the three areas of concern very soon.

3. **Communications**

The matters referred to in this report are part of an on-going statutory process, and these processes are the appropriate way of communicating the relevant information.

4. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the information noted.

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