



Report 05.201
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Proposed Local Air Management Areas

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's endorsement of the attached Local Air Management Areas (LAMAs) so that they can be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, according to Resource Management Act Regulations, 2004.

2. Significance of decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Strategic context

Clean, fresh air is an objective in the Greater Wellington's LTCCP. The target is that, by 2013, there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the 'Alert' levels (66%) of the National Ambient Air Quality Guidelines. At present there is no conflict between Greater Wellington's stated air quality goals and the National Environmental Standards.

4. Background

The Resource Management Act (National Environmental Standards Relating to Certain Air Pollutants, Dioxins, and Other Toxics) Regulations 2004 were gazetted on 24 October 2004. The National Standards are environmental regulations that must be implemented by regional councils under the Resource Management Act 1991.

A report on the National Standards was presented to the Environment Committee in February (Report 05.18). In summary, the Standards that have been introduced are:

- Seven activity based standards that ban various activities which discharge unacceptable quantities of dioxins and other toxics into the air.

- Five ambient air quality standards for carbon monoxide (CO), fine particles (PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and ozone (O₃).
- A design standard for new small-scale domestic wood burning appliances.
- A design standard for the collection and destruction of landfill gas at large landfills.

5. Local Air Management Areas

The Standards require regional councils to identify Local Air Management Areas (LAMAs) where the ambient air quality standards will apply. The National Environmental Standard User Guide prepared by the Ministry for the Environment explains that LAMAs are:

- reasonably large areas (around 3-9 per regional council area);
- based on geophysical airsheds;
- consistent with other planning and management processes;
- reviewable as circumstances change; and
- categorised, allowing for different levels of management.

LAMAs are required to be submitted to the Minister for the Environment by 1 July 2005 for approval, and will be gazetted by the Minister on 1 September 2005.

5.1 LAMAs in the Wellington Region

Using air quality monitoring and emissions data, eight LAMAs have been defined in the Wellington region. These are Central Wellington, Karori, Porirua Basin, (including, Tawa Valley and Pauatahanui Inlet), Kapiti Coast, Wainuiomata Valley, Lower Hutt Valley, and Upper Hutt Valley and the Wairarapa Valley.

Attachment One shows the extent of LAMAs in the Region.

Air quality monitoring must be undertaken in all LAMAs that are likely to exceed the air quality standard for PM₁₀. Through implementation of the *Wellington Regional Air Quality Monitoring Strategy 2000-2005* (Wellington Regional Council Technical Report WRC/RINV-T-00/20), five of the eight LAMAs have monitoring stations (central Wellington, Wainuiomata, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Wairarapa). Existing long term budgets cover the capital and operating expenses for developing the air quality network to cover the remaining three LAMAs. The placement of monitoring stations is scheduled for completion in 2008, provided funding through the LTCCP process continues as projected.

Greater Wellington has applied for funds from the Ministry for the Environment as part of the Ministry's implementation package for the National Environmental Standards to upgrade the Wainuiomata site to a continuous PM₁₀ monitoring station so that it complies with the National Environmental Standards. The existing monitoring stations will then all be continuous stations. We believe that our funding application will be successful.

6. Communication

The new LAMAs will be published in the next edition of *Elements*, and be placed on Greater Wellington's website.

7. Recommendation

- 1. That the Committee recommends to Council that it endorse the proposed Local Air Management Areas so that they can be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment for gazettal.*

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Attachment 1: Local Air Management Areas identified for the Wellington Region.