



Report 06.209
Date 17 May 2006
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
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Submission on the Resource Management (Climate Protection) Amendment Bill

1. Purpose

To seek Committee endorsement of a submission made to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Resource Management (Climate Protection) Amendment Bill.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision 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. Background

The Resource Management (Climate Protection) Amendment Bill (the Bill) was introduced in the House in March 2006 by Jeanette Fitzsimons. The closing date for submissions is June 1st. Because this date coincides with the date for the Policy, Finance and Strategy meeting, a submission on the Bill has been drafted and sent to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee, subject to the endorsement by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

A copy of the submission is attached to this report.

4. Comment

The Amendment Bill re-introduces provisions to the Resource Management Act 1991 relating to greenhouse gas emissions and the role of regional councils in managing them. Amendments to the Act in 2004 removed these provisions because there was an expectation that central government would provide national guidance on greenhouse gas emissions control. However, the withdrawal of the carbon tax proposal has meant there is a policy vacuum. The Bill aims to temporarily fill the vacuum.

Greater Wellington's submission suggests that such an ad hoc, partial approach is unlikely to be either effective or appropriate, given the increasing urgency for action and leadership on climate change. A more comprehensive consideration of the whole climate change topic is needed, along with some policy and practical guidance for how different sector might best respond.

The submission also makes the point that the previous legislative situation had, in any event, several pitfalls. One of these was that there was an expectation that local government transport and land use policies would deliver reductions in greenhouse emissions. The submission suggests that any reduction is, at best, a longer term contributor to the solution, but there is also a need for more urgent action.

Accordingly, on the grounds that the Amendment Bill does not address the issue comprehensively or effectively, the submission does not support the Bill.

5. Communication

Greater Wellington's draft submission has been forwarded to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee. A copy has also been sent to Local Government New Zealand.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. **Receive** the report;
2. **Note** the contents; and
3. **Endorse** the submission on the *Resource Management (Climate Protection) Amendment Bill*.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Greater Wellington Regional Council submission on: Resource Management (Climate Protection) Amendment Bill