



Report 06.442
Date 1 September 2006
File X/32/01/06

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
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Approval of Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

1. Purpose

To seek the Council's approval of Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan (Mangatarere Stream).

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 plan change sets minimum flows and water allocation limits for the Mangatarere Stream, in the Wairarapa, and its tributaries. It was notified for public submissions in April 2004. Five people made submissions and pre-hearing meetings were held in November 2004 and June 2005.

As a result of concerns raised at the pre-hearing meetings, Greater Wellington staff carried out additional investigations, and provided the information to the submitters. Three submitters still had outstanding concerns that they wanted to present to a hearing committee. The hearing was held in February 2006. The hearing committee made its recommendations on the submissions and these were presented to the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee at their 1 June 2006 meeting for their decision (Report 06.175).

The decisions on submissions were publicly notified on 27 May 2006.

4. Plan Change 2 can now be approved with minor alterations

No appeals were made to the Environment Court on the Council's decisions and the plan change can now be made operative.

Since the decisions were notified, I became aware that the explanation of the policy for minimum flows and water allocation was not entirely consistent with the policy. To address this, I have made a minor alteration to the plan change as allowed by authority delegated to me. This allows me to "make an amendment, without further formality, to a proposed plan to alter any information where such an alteration is of minor effect or may correct any minor errors".

To finalise the plan change, the Council must now approve it and publicly notify the date on which it becomes operative. The public notification must be at least five working days before the operative date. I have placed a copy of the plan change in the Councillors' lounge for inspection or it can be obtained from me.

5. Communication

The public process of consultation, notification, submissions, hearings, and appeals has provided plenty of opportunities to communicate the plan change.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

1. ***Approve Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan.***
2. ***Make Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan operative on 30 September 2006.***
3. ***Publicly notify the operative date for Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan on 23 September 2006***

Report prepared by:

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