

Report 07.112
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2007

1. Purpose

For the Committee to consider and recommend to the Council that it amend the Council's standing orders.

2. Significance of decision

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

3. Background

The rules of conduct that govern meetings of the Council and its committees are contained in the Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2005. These standing orders do not incorporate recent changes to model standing orders and require amendment to take account of the specific provisions applying to the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee. It is therefore recommended that Council amend its standing orders to reflect these changes and decisions.

4. Comment

The law as it relates to the conduct of meetings can be found in the LGA 2002 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

Any new standing orders should:

- accurately record the law as it relates to the conduct of meetings
- record any exercise of discretion by the Council in respect of the law. For example, the Council can choose between different voting systems when electing a chairperson at an inaugural meeting. It can also decide whether

to provide for the exercise of a casting vote by a chairperson in the event of an equality of votes.

- serve as a convenient guide to the rules of procedure that govern meetings of the Council and its committees.

Draft standing orders have been prepared for consideration by the Council (**attachment 1**) and it is recommended that these changes be adopted subject to any amendments that may be decided upon by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

The 2005 standing orders were based on *Model Standing Orders For Meetings of Local Authorities and Community Boards* (NZS 9202:2003), and took into account changes to the LGA 2002 and LGOIMA made in 2004. Greater Wellington's 2005 standing orders excluded some irrelevant material in order to establish standing orders that were particular to Greater Wellington and reflected the decisions made by this Council.

Since the 2005 standing orders were adopted, the model standing orders have been reviewed and modified; as a result, the Council's standing orders should be updated to reflect relevant changes to the model standing orders. In addition, the draft 2007 standing orders incorporate the Council's decisions on the application of standing orders to the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.

It is recommended that the Council adopt the draft 2007 standing orders as the Council's standing orders, subject to any necessary amendments. Any resolution to amend standing orders must be by a vote of not less than 75 percent of members present.

5. Communication

If approved, a copy of the Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2007 will be provided to councillors, made available to officers via the intranet and published on the Council's website.

6. Recommendation

That the Committee recommends to the Council that it:

1. *Notes that, pursuant to clause 27, schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Wellington Regional Council may amend standing orders by a vote of not less than 75 percent of the members present.*
2. *Revokes the Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2005.*

3. ***Approves the Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2007.***

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Attachment 1: Draft Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders 2007