

Report 15.218
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Committee Council
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Report of the Long Term Plan 2015-2025 Hearing Committee

1. Purpose

This report outlines the deliberations and recommendations of the Long Term Plan 2015-2025 Hearing Committee (the Committee) on the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 (10 Year Plan), arising from the consideration of written and oral submissions and other feedback to the Shape Your Region consultation. The 10 Year Plan incorporates the 2015/16 Annual Plan.

2. Background

The Committee met on 19 and 20 May 2015 to hear 54 oral submissions and consider all submissions and feedback on the:

- Shape Your Region 10 Year Plan consultation document and supporting information
- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy
- Draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policies
- Proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy (2015)

In total 876 submissions were received as follows:

Organisations (including community groups)	52
Local government	7
Individuals	<u>817</u>
Total	876

Included in this total are 571 pro-forma submissions received from individuals as part of the 'Save the Capital Connection' campaign.

A summary of the written submissions was prepared for consideration by the Committee, along with comments from officers and information on the results of other consultation exercises (Report 15.195).

The Committee re-convened on 4 June 2015 to deliberate and make recommendations to Council on the 10 Year Plan.

3. Deliberations

The Committee reviewed and considered all the written submissions and feedback, the matters raised in oral submissions, and the additional information provided. Issues and actions arising from written and oral submissions and feedback were grouped into three categories:

- Matters raised by submitters for which further information was requested by Councillors
- Matters requiring deliberation and decision by the Hearing Committee
- Non-10 Year Plan matters raised by submitters for which further information will be provided to Councillors for consideration at a later date.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council an amendment to the 10 Year Plan as follows:

Capital Connection

Five hundred and seventy one pro-forma submissions were received from individuals as part of the 'Save the Capital Connection' campaign. Kapiti Coast District Council, Horizons Regional Council, and Porirua City Council, along with various other individual submitters, requested that GWRC provide financial support for the retention of the Capital Connection. The Committee agreed to recommend that Council include in the 10 Year Plan funding of \$550,000 over 5 years for the retention of the Capital Connection in partnership with Horizons Regional Council and the Government. It is expected that this funding would be met from existing budgets and/or reserves.

The Committee also agreed to recommend to Council that the following matters, which do not require any amendments to the 10 Year Plan, be agreed for implementation:

Warm Greater Wellington

Hutt City Council requested that GWRC extend the clean heat component of the Warm Greater Wellington programme. To date the programme has assisted in insulating over 9,200 properties in the Wellington region. Due to air quality issues in the Masterton area, Masterton homes are able to access funding for clean heat as well as insulation as part of the pay-back scheme. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council that the clean heat component of the programme be extended to Wainuiomata, with further consideration to be given to extending the programme to other areas in the region that experience

poor air quality during winter. The proposed programme extension will be cost neutral.

Possum Predator Control Programme

The Aorangi Restoration Trust requested in their submission to GWRC a funding contribution of \$250,000 per year for five years to go towards a multi-species pest management programme in South Wairarapa on land in private ownership surrounding the Aorangi Forest Park.

Officers noted to the Committee that the objectives of the Trust are strongly supported by GWRC staff, DoC, OSPRI, local hapu and local hunters. However, officers advised that GWRC has no funding provided for this request in the five year period 2015-2020. There is funding of \$70,000 provided annually for pest control work in Key Native Ecosystem sites in this area.

Officers noted that, if Council desires, \$30,000 per year from the Possum Predator Control Programme Reserve could be allocated to the project, subject to DoC making a funding contribution of similar value. The Committee agreed to recommend that Council agree to fund \$30,000 per year to the project from the Possum Predator Control Programme Reserve, subject to DoC making a similar funding contribution.

Porirua Railway Station

Porirua City Council sought GWRC support for the concept of a transit orientated development at Porirua Railway Station and involvement of GWRC alongside Porirua City Council in further development of the concept. The Committee agreed that GWRC should work with PCC on that Council's concept work.

Regional transport planning and programmes

NZTA has reduced its co-funding contribution to the travel demand management programme resulting in reduced overall expenditure. This results in no change to rates for 2015/16. The Committee agreed to recommend that Council agree to maintain the base programme and proposed rate funding levels, noting that the outcomes would be less than proposed in the consultation document.

Other matters

Other items that the Committee deliberated on of note include:

Sport Wellington

Sport Wellington requested GWRC financial support of \$25,000 per annum to support the regional strategy for sport and recreation. While GWRC supports the development of a regional strategy for sport and recreation, the Committee considered that discussions about financial support for its implementation will be more appropriate when there is more certainty about the strategy's vision, objectives and actions and what GWRC's role might be in implementing the strategy.

Tbfree NZ programme

Submissions from OSPRI, Federated Farmers and a Farmer Reference Group requested that GWRC add funding of \$600,000 for 1 year only (2015/16) to continue the Bovine Tb programme in the region until alternative funding sources can be organised.

Officers noted that GWRC proposed ceasing a contribution to the TBfree NZ programme in the region following the recommendations of the comprehensive funding review of the National Pest Management Strategy for Bovine Tuberculosis. Officers advised that there were other funding mechanisms available for OSPRI to collect the regional share of the planned 2015/16 programme and that a new funding apportionment between Crown and industry stakeholders will be in place from 2016/17 onwards. Officers consider the long term risk to the national programme in the Wellington region is not significant.

The Committee discussed the options of reinstating the original Bovine Tb funder rate and also considered reinstating just the targeted rate component of that original rate but considered that the original Council decision to cease contributions to the Tbfree NZ programme as recommended in the stakeholder funding review of the National Pest Management Strategy for Bovine Tuberculosis should stand.

Fluoridation of water supply

GWRC received many written and oral submissions on the fluoridation of the Wellington water supply. The NZ Fluoride Information Service and other submitters requested that GWRC establish a regional review panel to determine whether fluoride should continue to be added to water supply.

The water supply activities of GWRC are managed by Wellington Water Ltd (a CCO part owned by GWRC alongside Wellington City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Hutt City Council and Porirua City Council). Wellington Water Ltd officers recommended to the Committee that GWRC not establish a regional review panel and gave an overview of the history that has resulted in the current policy.

The policy states GWRC will “Fluoridate all water unless otherwise requested by a local authority, and the supply of unfluoridated water to that authority is practicable”. The Committee agreed that this policy should be retained.

Other matters subject to concurrent consultation

No changes are proposed in respect of the Committee’s consideration of the submissions and other feedback on the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy, Draft Rates Remission and Postponement Policies, proposed amendments to the Resource Management Charging Policy (2015).

4. Communication

The 10 Year Plan will be considered for adoption by Council on the 30 June 2015, and will then be made publicly available. A media release will be issued once the Plan is adopted, followed by an ‘Our Region’ article outlining the

direction of the 10 Year Plan and the outcomes of the Shape Your Region consultation. The matters which were the subject of concurrent consultation will also be put forward for adoption at the Council meeting on 30 June.

After the 30 June all submitters who made submissions on the Shape Your Region consultation and other concurrent consultations will receive a response outlining the decisions of the Council and providing further comment where appropriate. An emailed response will also be sent to all those who provided feedback online.

5. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act).

5.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the decisions taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines. This report outlines the recommendations of the Committee as a result of consultation on the development of the Long Term Plan and follows the special consultation procedure as required by the Act.

5.2 Engagement

The consultation and engagement on the development of the 10 Year Plan has been designed taking into account the Greater Wellington Regional Council Significance and Engagement Policy. Further detail on consultation and engagement processes and results were provided to the Committee in Report 15.195.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*
- 3. Agrees to the finalisation of the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 subject to the following amendment:*
 - (i) Addition of funding for the retention of the Capital Connection to match funding provided by Horizons Regional Council at \$0.55m over the next 5 years; GWRC's funding to be sourced from existing budgets and/or reserves.*
- 4. Agrees to adopt the Revenue and Financing Policy.*
- 5. Agrees to adopt the Rates Remission and Postponement Policies.*
- 6. Agrees to adopt the Resource Management Charging Policy (2015).*

7. **Agrees** the following matters, which do not require any amendments to the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025, for implementation:
- (i) *Extension of the clean heating component of the Warm Greater Wellington programme to Wainuiomata, noting that this is revenue neutral, with consideration to be given to other areas in the region.*
 - (ii) *The provision of \$30,000 per year from the Possum Predator Control Programme, subject to the Department of Conservation making a similar funding contribution, for the work of the Aorangi Restoration Trust in managing multi-species pests in South Wairarapa on land in private ownership surrounding the Aorangi Forest Park.*
 - (iii) *Working with the Porirua City Council in further developing that Council's concept of a transit orientated development at the Porirua Railway Station.*
 - (iv) *Maintain the travel demand management base programme and proposed rate funding levels, noting that the outcomes would be less than proposed in the consultation document.*
8. **Notes** that a range of other issues identified by submitters but not directly related to the 10 Year Plan will be considered and reported back to Council at an appropriate time.

Report approved by:

Cr Barbara Donaldson
Chair, Long Term Plan 2015/25 Hearing Committee