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Report to the Environment Committee
from Michael Green, Hazard Analyst

Climate change and the implications for the Wellington Regional Council of the Ministry for the Environment's Domestic Policy Options Statement

1. Purpose

- To inform the Council of a review of climate change and its implications for the Wellington Region and
- To introduce *Climate Change: Domestic Policy Options Statement* prepared by the Ministry for the Environment

2. Background

A review of climate change information and its implications for the Wellington Region is currently being prepared and will be presented to the Environment Committee on May 6, 1999. This has been prepared in fulfilment of Method 6 of the Natural Hazards chapter of the Regional Policy Statement and in recognition of the issue of climate change and New Zealand's international obligations.

The Ministry for the Environment has prepared a Policy Options Statement presenting three options as to how New Zealand may meet its international requirements for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol 2008-2012. These policy options have major implications for Regional Councils.

A representative of the Ministry for Environment will be presenting the domestic policy options for climate change to the Committee at this meeting and will address the implications for the Wellington Regional Council.

Staff will make a pro forma submission on the Policy Options Statement by April 16 this year. The submission will be presented to the 6 May meeting of the Committee for ratification.

This Policy Options Statement is one of a number of closely inter related policy documents on which the Council has been making submissions or has an interest. These include the Roads Bill (and consultation document *Better Roads, Better Transport*), the Vehicle Fleet Emission Control Strategy, the Energy Efficiency Bill, and the current suggested amendments to the Resource Management Act. These issues have common environment and transport related themes. A significant concern has been the complexity of the relationships between the objectives and outcomes of these separate documents.

The need to make connections between these related pieces of legislation will be a feature of submissions that the Regional Council will continue to make in light of the common issues being addressed.

3. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and its contents noted.

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