

Report to the Environment Committee  
from Geoff Skene, Manager, Environment Co-ordination

## **Delegations for Incident Inspection Charges**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek approval for additions to the Delegations Manual to facilitate charging for Council responses to environmental incidents

### **2. Background**

At its last meeting the Council approved a policy (recommended by both the Environment and Wairarapa and Rural Services Committees) to allow the recovery of some of the costs incurred in attending to environmental incidents. These charges relate to the work of the pollution response services in Wellington and Masterton. By allowing us to charge for time spent attending to these incidents, these charges will improve our ability to manage the environment in a sustainable manner.

Incident inspection charges compliment other tools such as infringement notices (or fines, which are the subject of Report 00.43 in the Committee's papers) and enforcement orders.

To put this policy into place it is necessary to delegate the power to impose these charges to Council officers.

### **3. Discussion**

The proposed additions to the Delegations Manual are set out in Attachment 1. Their effect is to allow only officers of Officer Delegation A level to impose and/or remit these charges (certain departmental and divisional managers). This level of delegation is the same as that proposed for the issuing of infringement notices, as the two types of charge relate to the same subject matter (environmental incidents) and may, on occasion, be made at the same time.

This amendment was withheld from the report on inspection charges in the last committee round to allow work to be completed on the delegations for infringement notices and to ensure the two sets of delegations were complementary.

#### **4. Communications**

Information about the Council's ability to charge for time spent on environmental incidents will be passed to the community using press releases and an article in Elements. This information will be combined with that relating to infringement notices so that confusion over the two types of charge is avoided.

#### **5. Recommendation**

*That the Committee recommend to the Council that the Wellington Regional Council Delegations Manual be amended, as outlined in the Attachment to this Report, to allow for the implementation of Incident Inspection Charges.*

Report prepared by:

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