



caring about you & your environment

Report 02.444

15 July 2002

File: X/8/3/1

[Env Reports 02.444.GS.sw]

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

Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan Implementation 2001/2002

1. **Purpose**

To inform the Committee of progress in implementing the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans during the 2001/2002 financial year.

2. **Background**

This is the seventh annual report on progress in implementing the Regional Policy Statement (RPS), and the first to also include progress with plan implementation. This report complements other reports on RPS and plan projects which have come before the Committee throughout the year and Managers' six –weekly reports on RPS and plan projects.

In previous years, progress with putting our plans into action was reported by Jo Fagan in a separate report. As many of the methods in the plans overlap with those of the RPS and because both implementation strands are generally directed towards common environmental outcomes, it is appropriate to report on these together so that a picture can be gleaned of our overall performance.

3. **Relationship With Annual Plan Performance Indicator**

The Annual Plan requires the implementation of the RPS and the regional plans to be “to the satisfaction of the Council”. This report is designed to demonstrate to the Committee that significant progress is being made and that Councillors can be well satisfied with these implementation activities this year.

4. **Relationship with *Measuring Up***

The state of the environment report for the Wellington Region, *Measuring Up*, is the accountability device for the RPS. It tells how well we are doing in achieving the Policy Statement's resource management objectives. This implementation report refers to the findings of *Measuring Up* when discussing the work of the last year to show how RPS and plan implementation is addressing the environmental problems of the Region.

This practice of linking the state of the environment and our RPS activities was initiated two years ago.

5. **Sustained Progress**

Like last year's report, this one looks broadly at the contributions being made to implement the RPS and plans by departments across the Regional Council. As usual, this occurs through an extraordinary array of activities.

This year, however, has seen not only widespread achievement but also, through the implementation of projects given new or additional funding through the Long Term Financial Strategy, a sustained level of activity to extend the implementation of the RPS in several areas. The Council is fulfilling its statutory obligation to give effect to its RPS to a much greater degree than in the past and good progress is being made with the implementation of the plans as well. Of course, the plans have come into effect more recently, and there is plenty of time yet to implement the many projects they promise.

6. **Communications**

The completion of the year's RPS and plan tasks focuses attention on the diversity of the Council's activities. Communicating that diversity is difficult in a press release, given the range of topics and the ongoing nature of much of the work. Discrete aspects of the activities described in this report are publicised throughout the year.

7. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee:

accepts the report as evidence of the Council's implementation of the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans for 2001/2002.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

GEOFF SKENE
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachment

1. Implementation of the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans in 2001/2002