



Report **04.432**
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Committee **Environment**
Author **Nicola Shorten Manager, Resource Policy**
 Geoff Skene Manager, Environmental Co-ordination

Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan Implementation 2003/2004

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of progress in implementing the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and regional plans during the 2003/2004 year.

2. Background

In recent years, we have reported progress with the implementation of the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans through an extensive annual report to the Committee. This covered many activities across the Council.

This year the performance indicator in the Annual Plan is different from earlier years. It requires a report on a more narrow range of projects that are listed in *Towards A Sustainable Region*, Greater Wellington's ten-year plan. However, the importance of reporting on the wider implementation of the RPS has not been forgotten. We have also commenced work on the next major State of the Environment Report and will be reviewing the overall effectiveness of the RPS as part of the ten year reassessment required by the Resource Management Act. This will require a series of detailed investigations into the implementation of the RPS's various chapters that will be reported to the Committee in due course.

3. Discussion

The Annual Plan requires that the implementation of the Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plans will have continued by progressing the following programmes "to the satisfaction of the Council":

- Wetland Action Plan;
- Riparian Management Strategy;
- The Councils Carbon Footprint Programme;
- Wellington Harbour biodiversity case study;
- Freshwater Ecosystems Programme;

- QEII Trust private land protection programme;
- Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan;
- Kaiwharawhara Stream Plan;
- Waitohu Stream Community Plan;
- Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan;
- The Council's Waste Reduction Programme;
- Care Group work.

Appendix One to this report gives a summary of the work done during the 2003/2004 financial year on these programmes.

The implementation of the programmes relies on the input of staff from Departments across the Council. Significant progress is being made and Councillors can be well satisfied with the implementation activities this year.

In addition to this report, a detailed review of the implementation of the regional plans over the last 4 years has been completed. Updates on many of the programmes mentioned in this report have also been presented to the Committee during the year.

3. Strategic Context

Programmes being implemented under the Regional Policy Statement and regional plans contribute to a number of the Council's Quality for Life elements – Biodiversity, Water, Energy, Waste and the Community.

4. Communication

Communicating the diversity of the range of programmes contained in this report 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.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Nicola Shorten
Manager,
Resource Policy

Geoff Skene
Manager,
Environmental Co-ordination

Jane Bradbury
Divisional Manager,
Environment

Attachment 1: (Appendix 1) Regional Policy Statement and Regional Plan Implementation Summary