



Report **05.535**
Date 27 September 2005
File RE/02/02/04

Committee **Wind Energy Subcommittee**
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Process for considering submissions on wind energy

1. Purpose

To agree a process for handling wind energy submissions both at the Wind Energy Subcommittee meeting on 26 October and 1 November 2005 (reserve date 2 November 2005), and following that meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002. This is because they only relate to the process for handling the submissions Greater Wellington has received on the desirability of making Council land available at Puketiro for a wind energy development.

3. Background

On 2 May 2005 the Council decided to consult the public on the desirability of making Council land available at Puketiro for a wind energy development. The Council agreed to seek the public's views through a formal submission process and later established the Wind Energy Subcommittee to hear and consider all submissions. The meeting of the Wind Energy Subcommittee on 26 October and 1 November 2005 (reserve date 2 November 2005) completes this consultation process.

4. Comment

4.1 Process outline for subcommittee meeting

Greater Wellington has received 1,303 submissions in total and is expecting to hear 27 oral presentations. It is important that the subcommittee agrees a robust and transparent process for considering the submissions Greater Wellington receives. The following proposed process is based on the powers and responsibilities of the subcommittee that are expressed in the subcommittee's Terms of Reference.

Proposed process for Wind Energy Subcommittee for hearing and considering wind energy submissions

At the subcommittee meeting

Note report 05.544 which summarises the key issues raised by submitters. This informs subcommittee members of the key points raised in the written submissions. Subcommittee members are also given a full copy of all the written submissions Greater Wellington has received.



At the subcommittee meeting

Hear submitters' oral presentations. (Further details on oral presentations are provided in subsection 4.2 below.)



At the subcommittee meeting

Consider both the written and oral submissions as a whole, with the purpose of:

- adding to the summary of submissions outlined in report 05.544 where required, and
- analysing those issues arising from submissions that the Council should consider when responding to submissions and deciding whether or not to pursue making land at Puketiro available to a developer for wind energy generation.

The subcommittee does not actually make the decision on whether or not to make land at Puketiro available for possible wind energy generation. It only recommends key aspects from the submissions that the Council should consider when making its decision. This is detailed in the subcommittee's Terms of Reference in **Attachment 1**.



Paper from subcommittee

Prepare a paper to go to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee on 15 December 2005. The paper should recommend those issues raised by submitters that the Council should consider when making its decision on whether or not to pursue making land at Puketiro available to developers for possible wind energy generation. Those recommendations should be based on the relevant discussions of the subcommittee. The subcommittee chairperson should sign this paper on behalf of the subcommittee.

(The process to follow this is outlined under subsection 4.4 below.)

4.2 Oral submissions

Oral submissions provide submitters with the opportunity to speak to the subcommittee face to face about the key issues raised in their submission. It is a time for subcommittee members to listen, but there is also the chance for members to ask questions, particularly with the aim of clarifying points made by submitters.

Officers have provided a minimum 15-minute timeslot for each oral submission. This allows approximately 5 minutes for the submitter to get across their key messages (but not read their submission in full), 5 minutes for subcommittee members to ask any questions of clarification and 5 minutes in case it takes a little longer than expected. A copy of the timetable of oral submissions is included as **Attachment 2** to this report.

4.3 Written submissions

Each subcommittee member has already been sent a copy of the written submissions Greater Wellington has received. Please note that these are for internal use only. They are not to be made available to the public. This is because your copy contains the names and contact details of all submitters, but not all submitters want their name and contact details to be made available to the public.

We have made separate copies of the submissions for media and members of the public that exclude the personal identifiers of those who have requested that they be removed before being made available to the public.

Other councillors will be provided with a copy of the summary of the written submissions and a full copy of the written submissions will be placed in the Councillors' Lounge.

4.4 Process after subcommittee meeting – decision and responses

The final decision on whether or not Greater Wellington will make Council land available at Puketiro for a wind energy development will be made by Council on 15 December 2005, after consideration by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee. Formal replies will be sent to all submitters who have supplied their contact details soon after Council has made its decision. It is proposed that the replies be based on the Council's decision and include a brief summary of the submission and decision-making process that was followed. It is suggested that these replies be sent from the Council chairperson and that the same response be sent to all submitters.

5. Communication

Oral submitters have already been advised of the process that is generally followed for making oral submissions. Responses to submitters are discussed under 4.4 above.

6. Recommendations

That the Wind Energy Subcommittee:

- (1) **receives** the written submissions Greater Wellington has received on making Council land available at Puketiro for a wind energy development, and*
- (2) **hears** submitters' oral presentations on making Council land available at Puketiro for a wind energy development, and*
- (3) **agrees** to the process for handling these submissions and making recommendations to Council as set out in section 4 of this report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Wind Energy Subcommittee Terms of Reference

Attachment 2: Timetable of Oral Submissions