



Report 08.890  
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy  
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## Submission on the “Building Sustainable Urban Communities” discussion paper

### 1. Purpose

To obtain the approval of the committee to submit a submission on a discussion paper developed by the Department of Internal Affairs: “*Building Sustainable Urban Communities*”

### 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.

### 3. Discussion

#### 3.1 Overview of the discussion document

A discussion paper has been developed by the Sustainable Urban Development Unit, Department of Internal Affairs. The paper outlines the opportunity for strengthening the ability of existing types of urban development organisations to achieve positive sustainable urban development outcomes.

A number of options have been explored in the discussion paper including:

- Strengthening existing tools and ways of working
- The role of government in sustainable development
- Increased co-ordination and integration
- Funding
- Streamlining planning processes

- Land assembly
- Housing supply, choice and affordability.

Central government has indicated in the discussion paper that they wish to support local government and the private sector through the creation of high-quality urban environments in New Zealand. The discussion paper explores a range of possible options and impacts to promote sustainable urban development.

### 3.2 Reasons for making the submission

Sustainable urban development principles are recognised in the Wellington Regional Strategy, especially around the good regional form actions and priority areas. Making a submission on the discussion paper is therefore consistent with the WRS framework.

The Wellington region (along with other regions throughout New Zealand) were approached by central government in March 2008 to consider possible case study examples that may benefit from intervention to progress large-scale, multi-party urban development or regeneration projects. Members of the Senior Officers Resource Team continue to work with central government (led by DIA) to further develop options.

### 3.3 Process for preparing the draft submission

A workshop was held with the Senior Officers Resource Team (SORT) in early November 2008, from which a draft submission was developed. It has subsequently been endorsed by the Chief Executives at their meeting on 21 November.

Submissions on the discussion paper have also been prepared by Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council<sup>1</sup> and Kapiti Coast District Council. These submissions are consistent with the WRS submission.

## 4. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the contents of the report.
3. **Agrees** to submit the submission to Department of Internal Affairs on the discussion paper “Building Sustainable Urban Communities” (as per **Attachment 1**).
4. **Authorises** the Chair of the Committee to sign the submission on behalf of the Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing this report Hutt City Council has not yet formally considered its draft submission.

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1: Draft submission on Building Sustainable Urban Communities**