

Report 10.367
Date 24 August 2010
File PK/03/12/01

Committee Regional Sustainability
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Process for considering submissions on the draft Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan

1. Purpose

To brief the Committee on the process for considering submissions to the draft Greater Wellington Parks Network Plan (the Plan).

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. Background

3.1 Public Consultation

This meeting completes the public consultation phase on the Plan.

The Committee must consider both the oral and written submissions it receives at this meeting, and must decide what, if any, changes it wishes to recommend that the Council make to the draft Plan.

3.2 Principles of consultation

Six principles of consultation are set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). One of these principles is that views presented to a local authority should be accepted with an open mind, and should be given due consideration by the local authority, in making a decision.

It is consistent with best practice that members hearing submissions must be present for the duration of the hearing of the oral submissions.

4. Submissions received

Greater Wellington has received 98 submissions on the draft Plan.

A copy of all the written submissions has been distributed to members of the Committee (under separate cover).

5. Comment

5.1 Draft Plan submission process

5.1.1 Oral presentations

The purpose of this meeting is to hear oral presentations in support of written submissions. At the time of writing this paper, 47 submitters have requested that they be heard on the draft Plan.

Ten minutes have been allocated to each submitter. This allows approximately five minutes for the submitter to present their key points and five minutes for Committee members to ask questions of clarification. Whilst a hearing schedule has now been drawn up, there may be changes prior to the meeting to reflect the availability of submitters, so the final schedule will be provided at the meeting on 24 August 2010.

5.1.2 Consideration of issues raised in submissions

The Committee must consider all written submissions, regardless of whether or not an oral submission has been made.

The principles of consultation, set out in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, apply to the submission process. It is important that Committee members retain an open mind in the consideration of submissions. Members must be present for the hearings and deliberations in order to participate in the decision making of the Committee. There will be an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in both written and oral submissions once all submissions have been heard.

5.2 Process after consideration of submissions

The Committee's recommendations on the draft Plan will be considered by the Council at its meeting on 28 September 2010.

It is proposed that each submitter receives a copy of the report identifying the final changes to the Plan agreed by the Council, including commentary around the reasons for these recommendations. Each submitter will also receive a letter setting out responses to the key points of their submission.

6. Communication

The committee meetings for hearing submissions have been advertised and all oral submitters contacted regarding the hearing dates. Letters confirming their speaking slot were sent by Friday 13 August 2010.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

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