

Report 14.287
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Committee Council
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Regional Public Transport Plan 2014 for adoption

1. Purpose

To adopt the Regional Public Transport Plan 2014.

2. Background

The Council is required to have a Regional Public Transport Plan (PT Plan) by the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA). The existing PT Plan was adopted in 2011, but the legislation was subsequently amended and a new PT Plan is now required.

The PT Plan must provide a statement of the public transport services that are integral to the public transport network, and the policies, procedures, information, and infrastructure that support those services.

The PT Plan is primarily a policy document that sets out the approach to achieving the objectives for public transport set out in the Regional Land Transport Strategy (which will be replaced by the Regional Land Transport Plan in 2015), the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, and the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) Long Term Plan. High level objectives, targets and performance measures for public transport are set in those documents rather than in the PT Plan.

The statutory requirements for preparing the PT Plan are set out in Part 5 of the LTMA. The statutory purpose of the PT Plan is to provide:

- A means for encouraging regional councils and public transport operators to work together in developing public transport services and infrastructure
- An instrument for engaging with the public in the region on the design and operation of the public transport network
- A statement of the public transport services that are integral to the public transport network; the policies and procedures that apply to those services; and the information and infrastructure that support those services.

Following policy development and consultation with stakeholders, the Council adopted the draft PT Plan and summary document for public consultation on 19 March 2014 (Report **2014.132**).

Submissions were then invited on the draft PT Plan, and 624 submissions were received. The Annual Plan Hearing Committee (the Committee) considered the submissions and additional officer advice. Report **2014.285** summarises the consultation process, the submissions and officer advice. The Committee recommendations to Council are set out in Report **2014.338**.

3. Comment

The PT Plan has been amended to reflect the recommendations of the Committee (**Attachment 1**, circulated separately), to reflect the completion of the consultation process and to provide additional information where submitters requested clarification on issues.

Sections 124(a) and (b) of the LTMA requires GWRC, before adopting the PT Plan, to be satisfied that this plan:

- contributes to the purpose of the LTMA
- has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Transport Agency
- is consistent with the Regional Land Transport Plan
- has applied the principles specified in Section 115(1) of the LTMA
- takes into account:
 - the national Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy
 - policy statements and plans adopted under the Resource Management Act 1991
 - the public transport funding likely to be available
 - the need to obtain value for money, having regard to the desirability of encouraging a competitive and efficient market for public transport services
 - the views of public transport operators in the region.

Attachment 2 describes how these obligations have been met. These compliance schedules have also been included as part of Appendix 6 of the PT Plan.

The legislation requires Council to be satisfied that the statutory requirements have been met before adopting the PT Plan. Legal advice has been obtained to ensure that the amended RPTP is fully compliant with LTMA requirements. Based on the information set out in this report, and legal advice received from Bell Gully, officers are satisfied that the PT Plan meets its statutory requirements and recommend adoption of the PT Plan.

4. Communication

Once the Regional Public Transport Plan 2014 has been adopted by Council it will be made publicly available, and circulated to operators and other key stakeholders. A media release will be issued.

All submitters who made submissions on the draft PT Plan will receive a response outlining the decisions of the Council.

5. The decision-making process and significance

Officers have considered the need to take account of the community's views and preferences in relation to these matters. Most of the proposals included in the PT Plan have been developed with community input, and the PT Plan as a whole has been through a public consultation process.

The decision-making process is explicitly prescribed by section 125 of the Land Transport Management 2003 and must include in consultation in accordance with the consultative principles specified in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Agrees** that the matters in the report require the Council to make a decision with a high degree of significance.*
- 4. **Agrees** that the Council has sufficient knowledge of the views and preferences of persons likely to be affected by, or have an interest in, the matters for decision in this report.*
- 5. **Adopts** the Regional Public Transport Plan 2014 (Attachment 1), subject to any changes agreed at the meeting.*
- 6. **Delegates** to the Chair the ability to make minor editorial changes prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.*

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Attachment 1: Regional Public Transport Plan 2014 (circulated separately)

Attachment 2: Regional Public Transport Plan Statutory Requirements