

Chairperson and Committee Members
REGULATORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

23 APRIL 2015

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Information

APRIL 2015 UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED DISTRICT PLAN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report summarises activities carried out since the last update provided to RMC on 12 March.

DELEGATION

- 2 This report is for information purposes and does not seek a decision.

BACKGROUND

- 3 On 24 July 2014, the Council chose Option 4 recommended by the Independent Review of the Proposed District Plan (PDP). This option is to continue with a modified PDP process which addresses the Plan as a whole using the 'basket of tools' available to the Council.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 4 The following table lists the external engagement activities that have taken place since the last update which recorded activities up to 24 February 2015.

Date	Who	Reason for meeting	Outcome
23 February ¹	Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI)	To discuss potential application of the Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative (PFSI) and other central government policy initiatives on carbon offsets and biodiversity	MPI keen to meet further with the Council and the Rural Issues Group (RIG) to advance discussions
4 March	Rural Issues Group (RIG)	Regular meeting where MPI presented PFSI information and the Council provided an update on the Pilot Group and PDP progress and non-regulatory methods	RIG interested in maintaining dialogue with the MPI and the Council as part of non-regulatory initiative

¹ This item was omitted from the last update

Date	Who	Reason for meeting	Outcome
4 March	Coastlands	Discussion of town centre car parking requirements and management	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submissions
5 March	Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)	Meeting with Senior GWRC Managers to discuss Plan Harmonisation process	Agreement that this requires some extra resources from both Councils in the lead up to the release of the PDP Submitter Engagement Version at the end of May and the notification of the Proposed Natural Resources Plan at the end of June 2015.
5 March	Department of Conservation (DOC)	To provide an update on PDP progress, particularly associated with rural ecology, landscape and coastal issues	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submissions
6 March	Various submitters related to site specific flood hazard matters	Site visits by stormwater engineer	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submissions
9 March	Submitter	In response to submission on zoning of Ihakara Street	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submission
15 March	Rural Issues Group - Pilot Group	To discuss next steps associated with Tararua Ranges and Foothills ecological sites and landscape layers	Agreement on next steps of this process
18 March	Submitter	To clarify the submitter's request for an area to be identified as outstanding natural landscape	Will assist in evaluating and responding to the submission
19 March	Submitter	To clarify the submitter's request for an amendment to the significant amenity landscape at Waitohu Stream mouth	Will assist in evaluating and responding to the submission

Date	Who	Reason for meeting	Outcome
20 March	GWRC	Plan Harmonisation Working Group - Regular Meeting	Discussion and agreement on next steps re plan harmonisation
25 March	Heritage NZ	Update on process and discussion of submission	Further discussions to be held once Submitter Engagement Version available
25 March	Site visit to Kāpiti Island, hosted by Ngāti Toa	To assess landscape issues and better understand cultural issues	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submissions
26, 27, 28 March	Site visits to waahi tapu sites	In response to submissions	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submissions
27 March	Various submitters	Formal prehearing meeting on coastal and landscape matters	Agree outcomes and actions recorded in Prehearing Report.
29 March	Rural Issues Group - Pilot Group	Meeting on a submitter's property to discuss the methodology for applying the Regional Policy Statement criteria for defining ecological sites and landscape layers in the PDP for the Tararua Ranges and Foothills areas	Progress on agreeing next steps in Pilot Group process (see paragraph 5 below for additional information)
31 March	Tāngata Whenua Working Party	Update on proposed key changes to chapters	Regular meetings
1 April	Submitter with site specific flood hazard issues	To discuss concerns raised by submitter	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submissions
1 April	NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)	To discuss waahi tapu issue raised in submissions	Will assist in evaluating and responding to submissions

- 5 The meetings with the Rural Issues Group and its subcommittee, the Pilot Study Group, have focussed on agreeing field methodologies and land access for the landscape and ecological assessments. Agreement has been reached for the landscape architects acting for the Council (Isthmus) and an independent peer reviewer (Frank Boffa) to visit five pilot properties to review the existing landscape assessments done for the PDP. If the pilot property owners are

satisfied with this process they will encourage the wider Rural Issues Group to allow access to their properties. Discussions are ongoing with the Pilot Study Group to allow access for the ecologists acting for the Council.

- 6 Due to delays in getting permission for land access, it is increasingly likely that the submitter engagement version of the PDP due at the end of May will not include fully revised landscape and ecological site mapping.

INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

- 7 The key internal activities undertaken by staff since the last update include:
- Participation in Town Centres and Connectors meetings to ensure coordination with the PDP.
 - Continuation of internal and external review of redrafted chapters. Internal review is by the Resource Consents team. External review includes a planning review by Sylvia Allan (consultant planner) and a legal review by the Council's lawyers (Simpson Grierson).
 - Appointment of two new staff to fill the vacant positions of Policy Planner and Planning Technician.
 - Preparation of an engagement plan for the next phase ie release of the Submitter Engagement Version of the PDP.

CONSIDERATIONS

Policy considerations

- 8 There are no policy considerations that need to be referenced.

Legal considerations

- 9 There are no policy considerations that need to be referenced.

Financial considerations

- 10 Costs to date are within budget for the 2014/15 financial year.

Tāngata whenua considerations

- 11 There are no specific tāngata whenua considerations in this update report. An update report was provided at the Te Whakaminenga O Kāpiti meeting of 14 April 2015.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Degree of significance

- 12 The PDP is now in the statutory phase between close of submissions and commencement of hearings. As the PDP process has already been adopted by Council this report has a low degree of significance.

Engagement

- 13 The PDP implementation plan (refer to Attachment 1) provides for additional submitter engagement and prehearing meetings which are not required under the RMA.
- 14 An engagement consultant has been retained and is preparing a detailed Engagement Plan for the Submitter Engagement Version of the PDP. A communications Action Plan will be prepared to align with the Engagement Plan. A briefing to Councillors is planned for May 14 2015 outlining the engagement process for the Submitter Engagement Version of the PDP.

Publicity and communications

- 15 There is a Communications Plan for the PDP. In line with this, a PDP Update Newsletter was provided to submitters following the March meeting of this committee. The newsletter gave the information about the following:
 - The ongoing submission review process
 - The release of the submitter engagement version of the redrafted PDP scheduled for the end of May
 - The three chapter leads not previously profiled in a PDP update ie Stephen Daysh, Janeen Kydd-Smith, and Gina Sweetman.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 16 That the update report be received.

Report prepared by	Approved for submission	Approved for submission
Katherine Dorofaeff Principal Policy Planner	Wayne Maxwell Group Manager, Corporate Services	Stephen McArthur Group Manager, Strategy & Planning

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Attachment 1 contains the PDP Implementation Plan

