

Chairperson and Committee Members  
**REGULATORY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**10 FEBRUARY 2011**

Meeting Status : Public

Purpose of Report: For Information

## SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FROM CONSULTATION ON SEVEN DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS IN 2010

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report presents a summary of the submissions received on the District Plan Review Discussion Documents released for public consultation on October 1 2010. Full copies of the submissions were provided to Elected Members in January 2011.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 The significance policy is not triggered by this report.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 3 Under the Resource Management Act 1991, each provision of a District Plan has to be reviewed every 10 years. Much of the current District Plan hasn't been changed since it was completed in 1999.
- 4 In September 2009 the Council consulted on the scope of the District Plan Review and proposed focus areas for the Review. In April 2010 the Council approved a set of focus areas based on this consultation. In October 2010 the Council released seven discussion documents for public consultation. These documents were:
  - Global Change: Issues and Pressures
  - Biodiversity
  - Natural Hazards and Managed Retreat
  - Food and Rural Productivity
  - Landscape, Character and Heritage
  - Infrastructure and Essential Systems
  - Urban Form and Transport
- 5 The Council sought written comments and feedback over a period of six weeks. There were 101 submitters who responded to these discussion documents. All submitters have received acknowledgement letters.
- 6 This report presents a summary of the submissions received on these discussion documents.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Issues

- 7 Some submitters made comments on several, or all, of the discussion documents and others focused on only one discussion document or a specific topic within a document.
- 8 There were 58 generally supporting the direction of the review.
- 9 There were 25 submitters concerned that a significant issue was completely missed or that the proposed direction for the review was clearly wrong for a topic covered by the discussion document.
- 10 There were 65 submitters who suggested specific things to amend in one or all topics, rather than clearly opposing or supporting the general directions proposed. Many of these submissions also either supported or opposed part or all of the discussion documents, so these submitters are noted in those categories in the two paragraphs above as well as this one.
- 11 There were two neutral submissions requesting only that they continue to be informed.
- 12 Some of the topics that multiple submitters suggested as worthy of more emphasis for the District Plan Review than evidenced in the discussion documents include:
  - Economics and economic impacts of District Plan options;
  - Tangata whenua issues; and
  - Impacts of the Expressway.
- 13 Future work on the District Plan Review will attempt to address these issues more explicitly (for example, through robust cost-benefit analysis as required by Section 32 of the Resource Management Act). This is consistent with the focus areas for the Review agreed by the Environment and Community Development Committee in April 2010 (SP-10-875 refers), which include “economic health and vitality,” “integrated transport,” and “protection and preservation of built, natural and cultural heritage including waahi tapu sites.”
- 14 The submitters overall made very constructive suggestions which can be incorporated into the next stages of the analysis and thinking for the District Plan Review.
- 15 Some submitters made comments on matters outside the scope of the District Plan; where possible, these will be forwarded to relevant staff or other agencies to ensure that these comments receive appropriate consideration in other processes.
- 16 The detailed analysis of issues raised by submitters will be reported back as part of future reports to this committee on specific topics as the District Plan Review progresses.

## Forward Programme

- 17 The next steps for the District Plan Review include a series of workshops with Elected Members on policy topics currently being developed. The first of these is planned for 10 March 2011 and the workshops will take place through to June 2011. Reports are intended to be brought to the Regulatory Management Committee meetings between March and July 2011 seeking approval for objectives and policies relating to specific topics within the review. The intent is to be able to start consulting on draft objectives and policies this year following approval by the Committee.
- 18 In the second half of 2011 the more detailed content of the District Plan (e.g. rules and standards) will be brought to Elected Member workshops and meetings before further consultation, with the intent of notifying the new District Plan content in July 2012.
- 19 The District Plan Review analysis and proposed provisions are being informed by internal and external research which is currently underway.
- 20 In addition there is a separate workstream being undertaken within the District Plan Review, to enable the protection of significant native urban trees by specifically identifying them in the Heritage Register of the District Plan. There is urgency for this part of the Review as the existing general tree protection for native urban trees will end in January 2012. The aim is to notify new provisions for these trees in December 2011. Information on this workstream will be brought to an Elected Member workshop in March 2011 and subsequently to the Regulatory Management Committee.

## Financial Considerations

- 21 There are no financial considerations at this time.

## Legal Considerations

- 22 There are no legal considerations at this time.

## Delegation

- 23 The Committee has the delegation to consider the District Plan Review; however, no decision is sought at this time.

## Consultation

- 24 Consultation was held in October-November 2010 in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Management Act that consultation be undertaken with potentially affected persons prior to any plan change being notified for formal submissions.
- 25 The discussion documents were released to the public on 1 October 2010 with submissions closing on 15 November 2010. The public were advised of the consultation by advertisements in the Kāpiti Observer, Paekākāriki Xpressed and the Ōtaki Mail as well as having posters in shop windows in town and village centres. Static displays were placed in libraries and service centres, information

was provided on the Council website and a staffed information display was held in Coastlands for one day. A reminder notice was sent out with the October 2010 rates demand to ensure that all ratepayers were aware of the opportunity to submit on these discussion documents.

- 26 In addition, emails and letters were sent out to statutory parties (including iwi) and people who had indicated that they wanted to be involved in the District Plan review in earlier consultation.

### **Policy Implications**

- 27 The District Plan Review will have significant policy implications, but this report does not have any policy implications.

### **Publicity and other considerations**

- 28 There are no publicity or other considerations at this time.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 29 That the Committee acknowledges the 101 submissions received (summary attached as Appendix One to SP-11-122) and that the majority of these submissions largely support the direction proposed in the discussion documents, with more detailed suggestions made by many submitters.
- 30 That the Committee notes that the issues and suggestions made in the submissions will be considered during the policy development phase, and detailed analysis of the submissions will be provided in topic-specific reports and briefings in March to July 2011.

**Report prepared by:**

**Approved for submission by:**

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**Sustainable Development Manager**

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## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix One: Summary of Submissions on District Plan Review Discussion Documents

**25 January 2011 10:51 A.M.**