

**Chairperson and Members**

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11 SEPTEMBER 2014

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**APPROVAL OF GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL'S WAIKANAĒ RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks the Committee's approval of Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) Waikanae River Environmental Strategy.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 The Council's Significance Policy is not triggered by this report.

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 In 1997, GWRC, in consultation with the Waikanae and Otaihangā communities, prepared the Waikanae Floodplain Management Plan (WFMP), which set out the actions that would be taken to manage the flood risk of the Waikanae River. These actions included building and maintaining structural works, erosion control, planning controls and increasing community preparedness for flood events.
- 4 To support the objectives of the WFMP, and provide an agreed framework for protecting and enhancing the river's values, GWRC, together with the Kāpiti Coast District Council (the Council), prepared the 1999 Waikanae River Environmental Strategy.
- 5 GWRC have reviewed the 1999 Strategy (now the 2014 Strategy) and now formally request the endorsement of Council.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**Strategy Overview**

- 6 The Strategy divides the river into sections based on geographical common areas ("river reaches"), and contains recommendations for the management and enhancement of the river corridor in each of these reaches, in line with the vision and objectives of the Strategy.
- 7 The focus of the Strategy is on the section of the river corridor between the Water Treatment Plant and the river mouth including the estuary.

**Financial Considerations**

- 8 Any works required to be undertaken directly by Council outlined in the Strategy will be undertaken within existing Council budgets.

## Legal Considerations

- 9 The Strategy places no obligation on the parties involved, beyond their existing statutory responsibilities. As the Strategy is not a statutory document there are no legal considerations.

## Delegation

- 10 The Environment and Community Development Committee has the ability to consider this matter, as per the following delegations:

### **District Development Management**

*7.5 Authority with regard to any matter substantially affecting or impinging upon the environmental management policies within any wider strategic framework within or relating to the Kapiti Coast District. (This does not include District Plan Review, District Plan changes or regulation of site specific activities).*

### **Other Territorial Authority and Regional Plans and Monitoring**

*7.12 Authority in regard to any matters relating to services or activities of Greater Wellington – the Regional Council, any ad hoc authority and neighbouring territorial local authorities, not covered by any other Committee.*

## Consultation

- 11 Revision of the Strategy has been a combined effort of GWRC and the Council. The Department of Conservation, Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai, the Friends of the Waikanae River and other members of the community have also made a valuable contribution to the Strategy review.
- 12 The revised Strategy was endorsed by the Waikanae Community Board (WCB) at their 29 July 2014 meeting, and the Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board (PRCB) at their 05 August 2014 meeting. The resolutions from those meetings were as follows:
- That the Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board endorses the Waikanae River Environmental Strategy and notes that it includes the recommendation to consider extending the focus to encompass the upper reaches of the river – including working with Tāngata Whenua and iwi.
  - That the Waikanae Community Board endorses the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Environmental Strategy and looks forward to favourable consideration by Kāpiti Coast District Council.

## Policy Implications

- 13 The Strategy has linkages to both the Operative and Proposed District Plans and positively supports the ecological provisions in both.

## Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 14 Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai have been consulted with and contributed to the Strategy.
- 15 There are no Treaty of Waitangi issues.

## Publicity Considerations

- 16 Council staff will recommend that GWRC issue a media release to accompany the launching of the Strategy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 17 That the Environment and Community Development Committee receives and endorses the 2014 Waikanae River Environmental Strategy.
- 18 That the Environment and Community Development Committee Chair be formally authorised to sign the 2014 Waikanae River Environmental Strategy on behalf of Council.

**Report prepared by:**

**Approved for submission by:**

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**Policy Planner**

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## ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix One: 2014 Waikanae River Environmental Strategy (n\_472949)