

3 August 2011

File No: SP/04/04/04

Mayor Jenny Rowan  
Kapiti Coast District Council  
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Dear Jenny

Thank you for your submission to the Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Plan 2011/12. Each submission received was considered by the Annual Plan Hearing Committee and the Council adopted the Annual Plan on 29 June. The Annual Plan is now available on our website [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz).

#### **Resource Management: planning**

Your support for the resource management group of activities is appreciated and your comments around the need to appropriately fund the implementation of the proposed Regional Policy Statement are noted. We are very conscious of the fact that the operative Policy Statement has perhaps not gained as much traction as it might have due to the number of policies that were to have been progressed, and the funding requirements associated with the implementation of these policies. The proposed Regional Policy Statement is directed at implementing a smaller, more specific and more targeted set of policies. Funding has been and will continue to be set aside to ensure that these policies are incrementally implemented. This will of course involve a process of prioritisation and, to that end, we will be looking to engage regularly with councils within the region to assist in the determining which policies should be implemented ahead of others.

#### **Transport: public transport services**

Thank you for your support of the Regional Rail Package. We believe that it will deliver positive benefits for the region.

As undertaken previously, we will be considering a new rail station at Raumati as part of a broader review of the programme of work on the Kapiti line once the new Matangi trains start operating from Waikanae.

We look forward to working with Kapiti Coast District Council on the review of Otaki bus services. We are aware of the service provided by the Capital Connection and have supported its retention by KiwiRail. As you are aware, this is a commercial service and as such it is not funded by Greater Wellington. We agree that the Capital Connection provides the only daily passenger rail service between Otaki and Wellington, but would like to point out that we provide bus services that connect

with the rail at Waikanae. In addition there are commercial bus services that can be used for travel between Otaki and Wellington.

Electrification of the rail service to Otaki is identified as a long term network enhancement project in the Regional Rail Plan at an estimated cost of \$30 million. It is unlikely that this project will be implemented for many years.

We look forward to working with you to address parking concerns at Waikanae.

### **Transport: regional transport network planning**

Regarding the expressway, we will continue to advocate our regional plan policies whenever it is appropriate, recognising that local community issues are sometimes best addressed within local communities.

### **Finance: rates**

You raised concerns about the formula use to calculate the transport rate. To clarify, the capital investment in the North Island Main Trunk Line has been largely met from government subsidies. The local contribution is allocated as part of the rail network on a region wide basis. Rather than being penalised, Otaki residents have had the advantage of much easier access to the rail network with the extension of services to Waikanae.

### **Parks and Forests: parks networks planning**

We look forward to continuing working with you on both cycleway issues and the proposed heritage precinct within Queen Elizabeth Park.

### **Parks and Forests: recreational, facilities and services**

Regarding logging of Greater Wellington forestes, we own 180 hectares in the Maungakotukutuku block and a further 160 hectares in Whakatikei. The Maungakotukutuku block is scheduled for felling in 2018-19. The majority of Whakatikei has been successfully harvested with the remaining 80 hectares programmed for harvest in 2020.

All harvesting is carried out under contract and in accordance with the New Zealand Environmental Code of Practice for Plantation Forestry and the relevant District Plans. Any adverse effects are managed accordingly.

### **Safety and Flood Protection: floodplain management planning**

In our next Long Term Plan, which we are now developing, we will be considering funding for practical help to both the Waikanae and Otaki Friends to help with restoration. The approval of this funding will of course, be dependant on overall affordability when compared to other priorities across Greater Wellington.

We are proposing to review the flood protection investigations priorities for the region as a whole over the next 6 months and will include the need for a floodplain management plan for the Mangaone as part of that review. We have recently met with some of the Mangaone community and undertaken some maintenance work to ensure the channel is clear to convey the normal winter flows.

We noted your opposition to delaying the review of the Otaki Floodplain Management Plan. In coming to this decision we have had to consider our overall investigations programme. We believe the delay will not affect the level of service provided to the community. We are continuing with the implementation of the outcomes of the plan and are confident that the review, which is more of a technical nature, will not unearth any issues that will significantly alter priorities for implementation.

#### **Land Management: pest management**

We noted your concern about the existing level of possum control. Greater Wellington is committed to mitigating the impacts of pest animals in the region (including possums and rabbits) and we have a long term Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022 (RPMS).

We have introduced an extensive Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme over the 19,200ha that have been declared Bovine Tb free, in order to maintain the gains achieved by that programme. The Programme will expand in 2011/12 to account for areas that have recently achieved Bovine Tb free status. Please note that this programme, along with the Key Native Ecosystem programme, will be reviewed following the recent approval of the new Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

Greater Wellington manages rabbits as a Suppression Pest under the RPMS. Besides delivering direct control of rabbits on public commons and a rabbit control service (on a cost recovery basis) to landowners/occupiers, we regularly monitor rabbit populations. Monitoring to date confirms that the calicivirus is still actively suppressing rabbits over most of the region. We will work with landowners where hotspots occur. We are working closely with other regional councils, the pest control industry and government departments to address rabbit problems across the country.

#### **Land Management: biodiversity**

Thank you for your support for the creation of a Biodiversity Department within Greater Wellington and for the Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

#### **Community: democratic services**

Regarding strengthening the links between Local Authority Disability Reference Groups and the Greater Wellington Accessibility Reference Group, we established the Greater Wellington Accessibility Reference Group at the start of this triennium to provide guidance and opinion on

accessibility issues to Greater Wellington. The group's membership includes representatives from each of the disability reference groups operating throughout the region. This assists in ensuring a shared awareness of local and regional issues where practicable, can help complement initiatives taking place at the local level.


We are very pleased that the Kapiti Disability Group representative, Mr Jim Webber, has returned to the group this triennium. Jim and the Kapiti group worked with us last triennium on accessible bus stops. We hope this practical collaboration can be extended and expanded this term.

**Proposal to join the Local Government Funding Agency**

We noted your support for Local Government Funding Agency. In order for it to be successful it is important that the agency is utilised by a significant number of councils.

Thank you once again for taking the time to make a submission and for providing valuable input into the Council's Annual Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fran Wilde', written in black ink.

**Fran Wilde**  
Chair

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Sue Johnson  
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Dear Otaki Community Board

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Thank you once again for taking the time to make a submission and for providing valuable input into the Council's Annual Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fran Wilde". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

**Fran Wilde**  
Chair