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Report to the Environment Committee
from Geoff Skene, Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Regional Policy Statement Implementation 2000/2001

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of progress in implementing the Regional Policy Statement during the 2000/2001 financial year.

2. Background

This is the sixth annual report on progress in implementing the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). This report complements other reports on RPS projects which have come before the Committee throughout the year and my six weekly Manager's report on RPS projects.

3. Relationship With Annual Plan Performance Indicator

The Annual Plan requires the implementation of the RPS and the regional plans to be "to the satisfaction of the Council". This report is designed to demonstrate to the Committee that significant progress is being made and that Councillors can be well satisfied with the implementation of the RPS this year. Report 01.375 in the Committee's previous Order Paper by Jo Fagan provides a summary for the implementation of the regional plans. Councillors may notice that some of the actions mentioned here are also listed in the Plan Implementation Report. This is because some actions give effect to both documents.

4. Relationship with *Measuring Up*

The state of the environment report for the Wellington Region, *Measuring Up*, is the accountability device for the RPS. It tells how well we are doing in achieving the

Policy Statement's resource management objectives This implementation report refers to the findings of *Measuring Up* when discussing the work of the last year to show how the implementation of the RPS is addressing the environmental problems of the Region.

This practice of linking the state of the environment and our RPS activities was initiated last year.

5. **A Step Up**

Like last year's report, this one looks broadly at the contributions being made to implement the RPS by departments across the Regional Council. As usual, this occurs through an extraordinary array of activities.

This year, however, has seen not only widespread achievement but also, through the implementation of projects given new or additional funding through the Long Term Financial Strategy, a considerable increase in activity to extend the implementation of the RPS in several key areas. These are, most notably, ecosystems and biodiversity, water quality, air quality, and waste management. There has been a significant step up in effort which Councillors can be proud of. The Council has begun to fulfil its statutory obligation to give effect to its RPS to a much greater degree than in the past.

6. **Communications**

The completion of the year's RPS tasks focuses attention on the diversity of the Council's activities. Communicating that diversity is difficult in a press release, given the range of topics and the ongoing nature of much of the work. Discrete aspects of the activities described in this report are publicised throughout the year.

7. **Recommendation**

That the Committee accepts the Report as evidence of the Council's implementation of the Regional Policy Statement for 2000/2001.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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Attachments: One