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**Report 01.692**

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Report to the Utility Services Committee  
from David Benham, Divisional Manager, Utility Services

## **Water Integration**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the committee on the WCC/HCC initiative to further investigate the prospect of water services integration in the Wellington Metropolitan area.

### **2. Background**

Subsequent to this Council's decision not to proceed with the Trust proposal, Wellington City Council (WCC) and Hutt City Council (HCC) resolved to develop a revised proposal for the integration of water services. The two councils were concerned that none of the five councils were excluded from participating in developing a revised proposal and hence we were invited to attend a workshop on the issue on 22 August. The attached (*Attachment 1*) includes a copy of the letter and attached programme as circulated by WCC and HCC.

After discussion with the General Manager, it was agreed that I should attend the first workshop to get a better appreciation as to what was being proposed and the suggested process.

Given the Council's prevailing position on water integration and the relatively recent development of that position, I believe we need to adopt a cautious approach to any engagement with the two city initiative. At this stage, it is my view that continuing to attend in a strictly observer status with no specific mandate from either the committee or the Council would ensure that there is no commitment by the WRC to the initiative either explicitly or implicitly. However, I believe that my observer status will allow me to provide factual information on an 'as requested' basis to the group so that their endeavours are not unduly compromised by poor information.

### **3. Workshop on 22 August**

The attached (*Attachment 2*) are the minutes from the workshop. We were advised at the workshop that Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) had decided not to participate at this stage but would appreciate being kept informed as the proposal developed. Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui and Ngati Toa iwi were represented.

### **4. Recommendations**

- (1) *That the report be received.*
- (2) *That the Utility Services Committee note that the Divisional Manager will, at his discretion, attend further meetings of the group strictly on an observer basis and that his presence will not constitute either participation or commitment in any way.*

DAVID BENHAM  
Divisional Manager, Utility Services

#### Attachments

1. Letter and attached programme circulated by HCC and WCC
2. Minutes from the Workshop held 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2001