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Report to Utility Services Committee
Andrew Samuel, Marketing Analysis Manager, Water Supply

Smiley Face mural for Ngauranga Reservoir – Wellington City Council's viewpoint

1. Purpose

To inform the Utility Services Committee that Wellington City Council does not support the proposed Smiley Face mural for Ngauranga Reservoir, and to seek a decision from the Committee as to whether to decline the mural proposal as a consequence of the City's viewpoint, or proceed to a public consultation and consider the outcome alongside the City's viewpoint.

2. Background

On 23 July 2002 the Utility Services Committee considered a private proposal to paint a Smiley Face on the Council's Ngauranga water reservoir (as detailed in Report 2.443 – Attachment 1). As a result of that meeting, the Regional Council approved support for the proposal in principle, subject to five conditions being met (Attachment 2), including:

(a) consultation of Broadmeadows residents is carried out by the Council at the proposer's cost

And:

(b) the proposal being supported by the Wellington City Council.

Wellington City Council's support of the proposal was considered important because the City is primarily responsible for the built and natural environment in the area that the reservoir is sited, and because a main reason put forward in support of the mural relates to a perceived benefit for the city. Mr Huckstepp considers that his mural proposal is consistent with Wellington's status as 'Top Town' and its 'Absolutely Positively' attitude, and that it continues the city's culture of innovation and exuberance.

2. Consultation

A consultation process has been designed, and was forwarded to Mr Huckstepp on 9 September, together with an estimate of the cost of the process (\$1,415 excluding GST), for his agreement. In response, Mr Huckstepp expressed hesitation at funding the consultation if lack of support from Wellington City was considered by the Regional Council to be sufficient itself to stop the proposal from proceeding.

On 7 August the divisional manager of Utility Services wrote to the manager of Wellington City Council's Environmental Business Control Unit (Attachment 3) about the proposal, including a request for the City Council's view regarding the proposed mural.

On 14 August a response was received (Attachment 4), confirming that there was no requirement under the District Plan for the proposal to gain regulatory approval from the City, but that the City's Director of City Services and Marketing would provide the City Council's view of the proposal in due course.

On 19 September a letter was received from Wellington City Council's Director of City Services and Marketing (Attachment 5), which states in summary:

"After reviewing the proposal in line with (City) Council planning policies relating to Ngauranga Gorge the visual effects are considered to be significant and therefore Council can not approve landowner consent."

3. Summary

Wellington City Council maintains that the question of support for the proposed Smiley Face mural is not a regulatory matter for it to consider. However, the City believes that the mural would not be consistent with its planning policies relating to Ngauranga Gorge and therefore does not support the mural being painted on Ngauranga Reservoir.

One of the conditions on which the Regional Council's support for the proposed mural rested has not been met

Ian Huckstepp, the mural's proposer, does not wish to pay for a public consultation if the proposal has no chance of gaining approval from the Regional Council without the support of Wellington City Council.

A decision is required as to whether or not the Regional Council holds the City Council's opposition as sufficient reason to decline further support for the proposed mural.

4. Communication

The decision of the Committee will be conveyed in writing to the mural's proposer. A media release is appropriate as the proposed mural has been widely reported and public interest in the Council's decision must be expected.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) *notes that Wellington City Council does not support the private initiative to paint a Smiley Face on the Regional Council's Ngauranga water reservoir.*
- (2) *declines the painting of the proposed mural on Ngauranga Reservoir in light of the City Council's viewpoint.*

Or

- (3) *approves proceeding to a Council managed consultation of Broadmeadows residents, at the proposer's cost, and considers the results of that process alongside the view of Wellington City Council in determining whether the mural be allowed.*

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Attachments

Attachment 1 : Report 02.443

Attachment 2 : Utility Services Committee Resolution 6 August 2002

Attachment 3 : Letter to Wellington City Council's Environmental Business Control Unit Manager

Attachment 4 : Letter from Wellington City Council Environmental Business Control Unit Manager

Attachment 5 : Letter from Wellington City Council's Director of City Services and Marketing Director