

Report **04.685**
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Committee **Utility Services**
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Wellington Water Management Plan

1. Purpose

To obtain the Committee's approval to proceed with a Wellington Water Management Plan.

2. Background

About two years ago when the Council's 10-year plan was being produced, it was estimated sufficient water sources were available to provide for a population of 377,000 at a 1 in 50 year drought standard. Based on Statistics New Zealand's 2001 projections, this population would be reached in about 2020. Rapid population growth over the last three years now suggests the urban population of the four Wellington cities will be 377,000 by 2007-10.

This provides greater incentive to better manage water usage particularly as new raw water supply infrastructure will cost millions of dollars.

3. Proposal

It is proposed to prepare a Wellington Water Management Plan similar to a Plan prepared in Auckland by Watercare Services and the Auckland TLAs.

Essentially, the Plan will be targeting a more sustainable use of the water resource and encompass the awareness programme promoted by the Wellington TLAs and Greater Wellington Water during the height of the summer period each year.

Attachment 1 provides additional information.

4. Consultation

The idea of developing a Water Management Plan has been discussed with Wellington TLAs. Representatives from Watercare Services and North Shore City Council outlined the Auckland Plan at the meeting.

The concept was well received and each city has endorsed the development of a Plan and committed staff resources to it.

5. Finance

It is expected a significant part of developing the Plan will be undertaken by officers of the various authorities. There will be some consulting costs and these can be funded from the Greater Wellington Water budget.

6. Timing

It is expected that the Plan will take several months to formulate but a draft should be available before 30 June 2005, resulting in completion in the second half of the 2005 calendar year.

7. Communications

A communications release would be appropriate after the committee meeting.

8. Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Committee **endorse** the concept of a Wellington Water Management Plan.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Proposal for a Wellington Water Management Plan