

## Natural Resource Management Plan Development Committee

### 1 Purpose

To oversee the review and development of regional plans for the Wellington Region, as required under the Resource Management Act 1991 and in accordance with the special terms of reference set out herein.

### 2 Specific responsibilities

1. Review operative regional plans.
2. Prepare proposed regional plans.
3. Prepare any variations to proposed regional plans.
4. Prepare any plan changes in relation to operative regional plans.
5. Recommend to the Council that proposed plans, proposed variations and proposed plan changes proceed to public notification.
6. Review any provisions which the Council may refer back to the committee for further consideration.
7. Oversee consultation as required under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.
8. Appoint hearing committees or hearings panels to hear and decide upon submissions on proposed regional plans, proposed variations and proposed plan changes. (Such hearings committees or panels may include members of the committee and may include non-elected members chosen for their particular skills, attributes or knowledge relevant to the functions and powers of the hearings committee or panel.)

### 3 Membership

1. Seven Councillors, including the Council chairperson *ex officio*.
2. Seven non-Councillor members, each appointed by Council for their skills, attributes or knowledge relevant to the work of the committee and including their knowledge of the role of the relevant iwi authority to which they belong. (In making such appointments Council will have regard to the

recommendation of each of the seven iwi authorities represented on the Ara Tahī inter-iwi representative group.)

#### **4 Chairperson**

4.1 The committee will have two Co-Chairs:

- The Council Chairperson, and
- the non-Councillor member of the committee who also has the role of Ara Tahī Chairperson. In the event that the Chairperson of Ara Tahī is not a member of the committee then the non-Councillor Co-Chair will be appointed by the committee on the recommendation of the non-Councillor members of the committee.

4.2 Each Co-Chair shall be the presiding member at meetings of the committee on an alternate basis. If a Co-Chair is absent from a meeting of the committee for which they are scheduled to be the presiding member, then the other Co-Chair shall preside at the meeting.

4.3 The Councillor Co-Chair of the committee shall be the presiding member when the committee is meeting to recommend to Council:

- the notification of proposed regional plans, proposed variations or proposed plan changes; or
- the commencement of the preparation of a variation of a proposed regional plan, or
- the commencement of the preparation of plan changes in relation to operative regional plans.

#### **5 Voting entitlement**

5.1 Members of the committee have full speaking rights and voting entitlements.

5.2 A casting vote will only apply when the committee is meeting to make a recommendation to Council relating to any of the matters set out in section 4.3.

#### **6 Quorum**

6.1 Four Councillor and four non-Councillor members of the committee.

6.2 All (seven) Councillor members of the committee must be present when the committee is meeting to make a recommendation to Council relating to any of the matters set out in section 4.3.

## **7 Remuneration**

The remuneration of the non-Councillor members of the committee will be determined and approved by the Council.

## **8 Delegated powers**

- 8.1 The Council delegates all the functions and powers of the Council under the Resource Management Act 1991 to the Natural Resource Management Plan Development Committee which are necessary for it to carry out the specific responsibilities listed above.
- 8.2 The Natural Resource Management Plan Development Committee may delegate to any hearing committee or hearing panel appointed by it all necessary powers under the Resource Management Act 1991 to hear and decide submissions on proposed regional plans, proposed variations and proposed plan changes.

## **9 Duration of the committee**

In accordance with clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the Natural Resource Management Plan Development Committee is deemed to not be discharged following each triennial election.

## **10 Review of the committee**

A review of the committee's terms of reference will be undertaken when the regional plans become operative.

## **11 Special terms of reference**

- 11.1 The role of the committee and all members of the committee is to objectively overview the development of proposed plans, variations and plan changes in accordance with the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991. In particular the committee must apply the purpose and principles of the Act and section 32 to its decision-making and recommendations.
- 11.2 The committee may make recommendations to the full Council as to the readiness of plans, variations and plan changes for notification. After receiving any recommendation from the committee the Council may proceed to authorise the public notification of a proposed plan, proposed variation or proposed plan change pursuant to clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991 or may refer the document or parts of the document back to the committee for further consideration.

- 11.3 The committee, when appointing hearings committees or panels, shall appoint members for their particular skills, attributes or knowledge relevant to the work of the committee or panel and shall so far as possible ensure that none of the members is open to perceptions or allegations of bias or predetermination.
- 11.4 The role of the non-Councillor members is to apply their particular skills, attributes and knowledge of Māori relationships to land, water and taonga, including knowledge relating to their particular rohe, to assist the committee in carrying out its responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 and in particular its functions under sections 6 (e), 7(a) and 8 of the Act.
- 11.5 It is not the role of any member (elected or otherwise) to represent or advocate for any particular interest.
- 11.6 It is not intended that the participation of non-Councillor members on the committee be a substitute for any consultation with iwi authorities required under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 11.7 The participation of Māori on the committee is consistent with the Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 to facilitate participation in decision-making.

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