

Report 99.156

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Report to the Policy and Finance Committee
from Cr Ian Buchanan, Chairperson,
Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan Hearing Committee

Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan Hearing Committee

1. Decisions on Submissions to the Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan

To seek the Council's approval of the decisions recommended by the Hearing Committee for the Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan.

2. Background

The Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan was publicly notified in January 1997. Forty-nine people and organisations made submissions on the Plan. Council staff completed reports which made recommendations on the submissions received. These reports were circulated to submitters last November.

The Hearing was held during 14 to 17 December 1998. The members of the Committee were Councillors Shields, McDavitt and me. Fourteen submitters presented their submissions at the Hearings.

The Hearing Committee considered both the submissions and the officers' reports. Our recommended decisions on these form the Hearing Committee Report. These decisions have been made with due regard to Part II and section 32 of the Resource Management Act, and the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region. The Hearing Committee's Reports, and copies of the amended plan, will be tabled and are also available in the Councillors' lounge.

3. **Where to from here?**

The process for preparing and changing regional plans is set out in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act. If the Council approves the recommended decisions of the Hearing Committee, the Council must give a copy of its decision to each submitter, including the reasons for accepting or rejecting any submission made. The Council must also publicly notify the fact that it has made its decisions on submissions to the Proposed Plan.

Any person who wishes to refer a decision on their submission to the Environment Court, must do so within 15 working days of receiving the decision. If no person refers any decisions to the Environment Court, the Plan is made operative at a date notified by the Council.

If an appeals is made, the matter referred can be agreed to by Consent Order between the parties, or will proceed to the Environment Court.

4. **Recommendation**

That the Committee recommend that Council approve the recommended decisions of the Hearing Committee for the Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan and note that that fact will be publicly notified.

CR IAN BUCHANAN
Chairperson
Proposed Regional Freshwater Plan Hearing Committee