

Report 99.183

File: J/4/1/10

17 April 1999

[Reports-1999.183.MP:lb]

Report to the Environment Committee
from Mike Pryce, Manager, Harbours

Approval of Regional Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan

1. Purpose

To advise the Committee that the Council's *Regional Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan* has been approved by the Maritime Safety Authority.

2. Background

Under the Marine Transport Act 1994 (the Act), the Director of Maritime Safety is responsible for preparing and maintaining the *New Zealand Oil Spill Response Strategy*. This strategy was finalised in December 1996 (an initial strategy was completed in 1992) and sets out clear principles, standards and responsibilities for oil spill preparation and response. It contains a three tier approach to oil spill response.

Tier 3

At Tier 3 is the *National Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan*. This was prepared by the Maritime Safety Authority in March 1997. It consists of an operational section and a set of annexes. It is not commonly available to the public.

Tier 2

The Regional Council, under sections 289 and 292 of the Act, is required to have an approved Tier 2 *Regional Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan*. This Council's Plan has just been approved by the Maritime Safety Authority (see attached letter). Its evolution has been a lengthy process. Our initial plan was used as the model example by the Maritime Safety Authority during discussions about the Strategy.

The Plan consists of an operational section and a set of annexes. It provides the Regional On-Scene Commander with operational guidelines.

A recent inclusion in this Plan was a section on Oiled Wildlife Response. It was developed by the Eastern bays Little Blue Penguin Foundation Inc., to whom we have contracted initial oiled wildlife response to in the event of a marine oil spill.

Tier 1

These are *Regional Marine Oil Transfer Oil Spill Contingency Plans* and need to be approved by the Regional Council by August 1999. To date we have received ten draft plans which we are currently assessing.

3. Recommendation

That the report be received and the information noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

MIKE PRYCE
Manager, Harbours

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachment