

Report 00.313

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Report to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Colin Wright, Divisional Manager, Wairarapa

Long Term Financial Strategy – Ara Tahī Submissions

1. Purpose

For the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee to consider the detail of submissions made by Ara Tahī members on the proposed Long Term Financial Strategy contents, as considered by the Policy & Finance Committee in March.

2. Background

The draft Long Term Financial Strategy proposals were presented to the 15 February Ara Tahī meeting. Members were then invited to make submissions which were considered by the Policy & Finance Committee on 7 and 9 March.

Four submissions were received, but only one related to activities under the jurisdiction of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee. This submission from Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Maori Executive Taiwhenua was quite a lengthy one. The first half of the submission related to the Operating Plans of the Environment and Transport Divisions and the second half to the Wairarapa Division. A copy of the second part of the submission is attached to this report.

The 9 March Policy & Finance Committee agreed, inter alia, that:

- (1) Many of the proposals made by Iwi can be accommodated within proposed work programmes and that others can be considered for possible funding within the scope of the specific allocation for Iwi projects in the draft Resource Policy Department Operating Plan.
- (2) The Iwi submissions be referred to the relevant Standing Committees for further consideration and any recommendations to the Policy & Finance Committee.

3. Comment

This particular submission raises many matters and overall it is suggesting that the wording in the detailed Operating Plans be changed to reflect what the Taiwhenua desires as a relationship of partnership. It also proposes particular projects in section 4 (pages 21-25).

As councillors are well aware, the Council is endeavouring to achieve a more mutually satisfying relationship with Iwi in the region. This process is evolving and developing as discussions continue. It is therefore suggested that it is not appropriate at this stage to alter the detailed wording in the Operating Plans in the comprehensive manner requested, as the overall understandings to support this are not in place. With regard to the specific projects, it is suggested that they can be considered in terms of the Policy & Finance Committee resolution regarding the existing allocation for Iwi projects. The Resources Policy Department of the Environment Division has a budget provision for such items and these particular projects or agreed modifications of them can be considered for possible funding within this allocation.

4. Recommendation

That the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee:

- (1) *Receive this report and note its contents.*
- (2) *Resolve to recommend that the Policy & Finance Committee –*
 - (a) *Agree that following consideration of the relevant Ara Tahi submission on the draft Long Term Financial Strategy, no adjustments be made to the proposed Wairarapa Division Operating Plans, 2000-2010 at this stage.*
 - (b) *Note that several projects raised through the Iwi submissions are recommended as suitable for consideration under the Iwi projects budget in the proposed Resource Policy Department Operating Plan.*

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