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Report to Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee
from Helen Marr, Resource Advisor, Policy and Planning

Regional Council Submission on South Wairarapa District Council Reserve Management Plans

1. Purpose

To inform the committee about the submission made by the Regional Council on the South Wairarapa District Council Reserve Management Strategy and Rural Reserves Management Plan.

2. Background

The South Wairarapa District Council recently released the Draft Reserve Management Strategy and Draft Rural Reserves Management Plan for public comment. These plans have been prepared under the Reserves Act 1977.

The South Wairarapa District Council currently administers approximately 253 hectares of reserves, with 116 hectares of this being rural reserves, many providing public access to waterbodies and the coast.

The Draft Reserve Management Strategy outlines the strategic direction for management of the overall reserves network and provides 'key directions' under which the Council will manage and develop its reserves. The Draft Rural Reserves Management Plan contains policies for the management of the rural reserve network as a whole, and also reserve-specific policies to deal with specific management issues for individual reserves. Both of these documents are available from the Policy and Planning Section.

The Regional Council made submissions on both draft plans, the content of which is outlined in summary form below. Full copies of the submissions are available on request.

3. Comment

The Regional Council complimented the District Council on the excellent content and professional presentation of both plans. Other comments made related to areas in which the Regional Council has an interest and were supported, where relevant, with policy from the Regional Plans. A summary of specific comments of interest are included in the following sections:

3.1 Reserve Management Strategy

- The strategy incorrectly attributed the plan preparation to the Department of Conservation and the Regional Council, and referred to it as the *Proposed* Regional Coastal Plan. The primary responsibility for, and status of, the Regional Coastal Plan was corrected.
- Goals to improve and promote access to the coast were supported, in particular plans to develop formal access along the entire South Wairarapa coastline.
- The creation and enhancement of public access to and along waterways was supported.
- The rationalisation of reserve land was supported, and strengthening certain 'goals' was suggested to ensure money from sale of land was redirected back into priority reserves.
- The identification of sensitive areas and the development of user guidelines and care codes was supported.
- South Wairarapa District Council was encouraged to consult and work with the Regional Council in achieving its goals.
- The Regional Council encouraged the District Council to raise issues relevant to management of coastal land at Wairarapa Coastal strategy meetings in the future.

3.2 Rural Reserves Management Plan

- It was recommended that the District Council develop specific pest and weed management plans, and take into account responsibilities for control of pests placed on it by the Pest Management Strategy (and the Proposed Pest Management Strategy).
- The Regional Council commended recognition of dune management as an issue and made suggestions to strengthen management of these areas.
- Landscape and natural character policies were included in this plan and recognition of these as important and relevant issues was commended.
- The goal of establishing a walkway from Cape Palliser Lighthouse to Honeycomb Rock was strongly supported.
- Support was given to initiatives to control the negative effects of camping on the reserves, particularly with regard to sewage disposal.
- Policies to upgrade and replace toilets and effluent disposal systems on reserves were supported and brief mention was made of rules in the Regional Discharge to Land Plan.

4. Communication

There are no communications or publicity requirements for the Regional Council.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

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