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**Report PE02.458**

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WJH/CtteeRep

Report to Wellington Regional Council  
from Wayne Hastie, Council Secretary

## **Appointment to Victoria University Animal Ethics Committee**

### **1. Purpose**

To ask the Council to nominate Mrs Margaret Brown to become a member of the Victoria University of Wellington Animal Ethics Committee.

### **2. Exclusion of the Public**

Grounds for exclusion of the public section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are:

*That the public conduct of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist, i.e. to protect the privacy of natural persons.*

### **3. Background**

Victoria University has an Animal Ethics Committee that approves all use of animals at the University and monitors their care and welfare. The membership of the Committee is specified in section 101 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and includes a layperson nominated by a territorial authority or a regional council.

Victoria University has written to the Council asking it to nominate Mrs Margaret Brown for the Committee. Mrs Brown has been informally attending meetings and they have found her to be an excellent member of the Committee. A copy of the letter is included as **Attachment 1** to this report.

#### 4. **Discussion**

The request from the University has been discussed with the Council Chairperson. In addition, Councillors were provided with details about the request, including Mrs Brown's curriculum vitae, in the Councillors' Bulletin 2002/36 dated 19 July 2002. Councillors were asked if they had any comments or concerns, and none have been received.

Mrs Brown has come highly recommended by the University and it is recommended that the Council nominate her for the position.

The University has requested that the Council keep Mrs Brown's name confidential. In the past Committee members have been targeted by animal rights activists.

#### 5. **Communication**

The decision of the Council will be communicated to Victoria University. No other communication is necessary or appropriate.

### **Recommendation**

*That the Council nominate Mrs Margaret Brown to become a member of the Victoria University of Wellington Animal Ethics Committee.*

Report prepared by

WAYNE HASTIE  
Council Secretary

**Attachment 1: Letter from Victoria University**