



Report: 03.292
Date: 3 June 2003
File: E/06/21/03

Committee: Ara Tahī
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Review of the Wellington Region Tier 2 Marine Oil Spill Response Plan

1. Purpose

To provide an opportunity for Ara Tahī to comment on The Wellington Region Tier 2 Marine Oil Spill Response Plan.

2. Background

Greater Wellington is currently reviewing its Tier 2 Marine Oil Spill Response Plan. Section 290 of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 requires that this Plan be reviewed every three years. Consultation with tangata whenua is an important part of our review process.

3. Review

Of particular importance is Annexe 7, (attachment 1), which deals with “Priority Areas for Protection” in the event of a threat from a marine oil spill in the Region’s coastal areas. Marine oil spills are usually the result of a marine shipping casualty or accident. They can happen anywhere and at anytime. The Council (in partnership with the Maritime Safety Authority) has the responsibility to mitigate the effects of these spills.

Iwi rely on many areas of our coastline for kai moana gathering; some areas are of high cultural significance.

When the Region’s Tier 2 Response Plan was initially drafted, six years ago, the Council requested that Iwi provide a list of areas along the coastline that were of particular significance and need protection from a marine oil spill and/or clean up operation.

Iwi advised the Council that, for security reasons, they were reluctant to tell Council about these significant areas.

Consequently, an agreement was reached that Iwi would provide Council with the telephone numbers (including after hour's numbers) for at least two persons from each Iwi. In the event oil spill incident, these persons could be contacted to provide advice and to be part of the response team.

The Council thinks that this process is a good one and would like it to continue. It therefore, asks that Iwi confirm the approach also, that the updated contacted information is provided as soon as possible.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that Ara Tahi:

- 1. receives the report;*
- 2. confirms the approach taken; and*
- 3. agrees to provide updated information as soon as possible.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Annexe 7