



PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Report PE 04.113
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File E/7/4/1

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Nomination for Membership of the Department of Conservation's Animal Ethics Committee

1. Purpose

To ask the Committee to recommend that Council nominate Alex Benton for membership of the Department of Conservation's 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

The Council has received a letter of request from the Department of Conservation (DOC) seeking a nomination for the Department's Animal Ethics Committee. A copy of the letter is included as **Attachment 1** to this report. The functions of the Committee are set out in the letter.

A copy of the letter was circulated in the Councillors' Information Bulletin. The only name to come forward was Alex Benton who is well known to Councillors as an Appointed Member of the Wairarapa and Rural Services Committee.

Although the date specified in the letter of request has passed, DOC staff have advised that they would still welcome a nomination.

DOC do not publicly disclose the names of the members of their Animal Ethics Committee.

4. Discussion

Alex Benton appears to be an ideal candidate for the Council to nominate for membership of DOC's Animal Ethics Committee. A graduate of Lincoln University with a background in environmental management, Alex has experience in agriculture and other business and has held a variety of voluntary positions in a wide range of community organisations. He is well placed to bring the perspective of a member of the public to the DOC Committee.

5. Communication

Alex Benton and DOC will be advised of the Council's decision. No other communication is appropriate.

6. Recommendation

*That the Committee recommends that Council **nominate** Alex Benton for membership of the Department of Conservation's Animal Ethics Committee.*

Report prepared by:

Wayne Hastie
Council Secretary

Attachment 1: Letter from Department of Conservation