



Report 07.329
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Committee Ara Tahī
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Wellington Regional Settlement Strategy

1. Purpose

This paper provides Ara Tahī with background to the Wellington Regional Settlement Strategy and seeks advice on the best means to properly involve mana whenua in the development of this regional initiative.

2. Background

The Settlement National Action Plan recently approved by the Government includes a project aimed at improving regional responsiveness to settlement. This work will focus on developing regional settlement strategies in key regions with significant newcomer populations to support the implementation of the New Zealand Settlement Strategy and to improve service provision to migrants and refugees. Wellington is one of the key regions identified.

The concept of a Wellington Regional Settlement Strategy was first initiated by a Wellington Mayoral Forum in 2004. Some work on an initial draft strategy and a stock-take of services was undertaken in 2004 and 2005. It is intended that the current work will build on this foundation. It will also take account of lessons from the Auckland Regional Settlement Strategy, launched in January 2007, and recent developments in the Wellington region.

Immigration has a vital role to play in helping Wellington achieve sustainable economic growth. It is one of the building blocks of the region's new economic growth strategy, *Internationally Competitive Wellington – A Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy for our Region* which takes a region-wide approach to generating business and improving the quality of life.

3. Comment

Work to develop the Wellington Regional Settlement Strategy and the associated Wellington Settlement Action Plan implementing the Strategy is a partnership between local government and central government. The Wellington City Council and the Department of Labour are the lead agencies for their sectors. The Chief Executive of the Porirua City Council is the project sponsor.

The Wellington Regional Settlement Strategy will cover the geographic area of five of the Territorial Local Authorities of the Wellington Region: Porirua City Council; Kapiti Coast District Council; Upper Hutt City Council; Hutt City Council and Wellington City Council. It will target migrants, refugees and host communities in this region, reflecting the fact that successful settlement is a two-way process involving both the newcomer and the receiving community. The development of the Strategy will encompass the local government, central government, non-government, business and community sectors, and policies and services, both targeted and mainstream, to support settlement.

It is intended that the draft Strategy and associated Action Plan implementing the Strategy be referred to the Territorial Local Authorities and Cabinet for approval by March 2008. The Action Plan will be for implementation from 2008/09. The appendix to this paper sets out the broad phases of the project and the accompanying timeframe.

The project is in its early stages. We are currently briefing the different sectors whose participation we are seeking. We are also arranging a series of initial meetings with migrants and refugees who have settled in the Wellington region. These meetings will collect information about their settlement experiences and, in the case of refugees, validate and update (as necessary) recent consultation findings.

We seek mana whenua involvement in this project and the advice of Ara Tahi on the best means to obtain their engagement. Attached is the Draft Wellington Regional Settlement Strategy Project Plan for your information.

4. Communication

There are no matters in this report that require further communication.

5. Recommendations

That Ara Tahi:

1. *receives the report;*
2. *notes the content of the report;*
3. *advises the appropriate consultation method for this strategy.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1:
Final Draft WRSS Project Plan