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Kelburn
Wellington 6012

12 June 2009

Proposed Regional Policy Statement
GWRC
PO Box 11646
Wellington 6142

Submission on Regional Policy Statement

I hope you will be able to accept this late submission.

I would like to support the general approach of the RPS – to provide clear direction to planning authorities and the RLTS on key resource management issues for the region.

I would particularly like to support the policies relating to transport (Policies 8 and 9). It is vital that all agencies in the region work together to reduce travel demand and the footprint of transport.

I believe, however, that Policy 9 should be related not just to non-renewable transport fuels and carbon dioxide emissions, but also to other resource management impacts of transport infrastructure and use – landscape, landforms, biodiversity, water, coastal environment, public open space, noise, air pollution, etc.

All the new roading projects in the RLTP will have a range of impacts on the environment. They will take up large areas of land that are currently in a more natural state, impact on protected areas (e.g. regional parks), reduce public access to protected areas and the coastal environment¹, generate additional stormwater, sever communities, create significant new noise pollution, require the loss of historic heritage values, etc.

It is vital that the RPS takes a strong position on the protection of aquatic and coastal environments. The health of these environments has been progressively deteriorating in most parts of the region. I am working on a restoration project at Paremata, and have been looking at the health of the harbour in that area, and by necessary connection, the state of the streams leading into the harbour. It is clear that Porirua CC and GWRC are not adequately addressing the impacts of land use intensification, subdivision and the past legacy of developments in that catchment.

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- ¹ Note that the definition of “environment” in the RMA includes reference to amenity values and that is defined as “those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes”

I was also shocked to find that works by Ontrack between Ngauranga and Petone were permitted activities under the RCP – they can extend the seawall significantly, and even the way they are doing it (e.g. the materials used) can't be controlled by your council, nor can any mitigating or compensatory actions be required. The RPS needs to signal that stronger measures are needed to prevent ongoing loss of coastal values.

I would like to be heard in support of my submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Warren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paula Warren