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Report to the Environment Committee
from Tim Porteous, Policy Advisor, Resource Policy

Draft Vision Statement and Action Plan for the Pauatahanui Inlet – Consultation

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) update the Committee on the consultation that the Pauatahanui Inlet Advisory Group (PIAG) is undertaking during March and April on the draft Vision Statement and Action Plan for the Pauatahanui Inlet; and
- (b) request that the Committee nominate a Councillor to be involved in a committee to hear submissions on the draft Vision Statement and Action Plan.

2. Background

The Committee will recall that progress on formulating the draft Vision Statement and Action Plan for the Pauatahanui Inlet was reported to it on 20 October 1999. Subsequently, in December 1999, the PIAG reported back to the representatives of the organisations present at the original May 1999 workshop from which the PIAG originated.

One of the outcomes of the report-back meeting was a decision to undertake further consultation with the various management agencies and the wider community.

3. Consultation

The PIAG is currently undertaking a round of consultation on the Vision and Action Plan with the various management agencies that will contribute to its implementation. It is seeking reaction and feedback as to the feasibility of the proposed projects that will fall within the jurisdiction of those management agencies.

While there has been input from the wider community in the early stages of the development of the document, the community has not yet had the chance to comment formally on it. Consequently the PIAG is planning to undertake another round of consultation with the community by putting the document out and calling for submissions during April.

The Vision Statement and Action Plan is a non-statutory document which the Council can adopt and implement if it considers that appropriate. Hence there is no statutory requirement for consultation on this document. However, the PIAG feels the Vision Statement and Action Plan could not be said to represent the community views on the Pauatahanui Inlet without this more formal opportunity for submissions.

4. Hearing the Submissions

Given the level of community interest so far in this project, it can be expected a number of submissions will be received. The PIAG envisages that the hearing would be held in mid May. This would enable the revised Vision Statement and Action Plan to be reported back to the appropriate Council Committees prior to the end of the financial year for adoption.

The PIAG suggests the following composition for a hearing committee:

- one councillor from the Porirua City Council;
- one councillor from the Wellington Regional Council; and
- two/three representatives from PIAG.

It would be appropriate for the Committee to nominate a Councillor to represent the Regional Council on this committee and to make recommendations for changes to the Vision and Action Plan.

5. Communication

The availability of the draft Vision and Action Plan will be notified in the Public Notices columns in The Dominion, Evening Post and relevant community newspapers. A press release to stimulate interest in the consultation process will be issued when the document is available.

6. Recommendation

That the Committee nominates a Councillor to serve on the community committee, hearing submissions on the draft Pauatahanui Inlet Vision Statement and Action Plan.

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