

Report 07.589
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy
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Wellington Regional Strategy 2007 Stakeholder Symposium

1. Purpose

To confirm a date for a Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) stakeholder symposium / congress in February 2008, and seek a mandate to initiate the logistical steps necessary to host it.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

At its April 2007 meeting the committee received a report on a recommended approach to WRS stakeholder engagement.

An annual stakeholder congress / symposium is identified in the report as a valuable means of engaging with the broad range of entities with an interest in WRS matters.

The purpose of the symposium includes:

- providing an update on the state of the Wellington region in terms of prosperity and quality of life issues;
- informing attendees of progress made around elements of the WRS; and,
- setting aside part of the day for workshops to bring together parties who can influence or contribute to WRS priority projects.

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4. WRS Stakeholder Symposium / Congress

4.1 Proposed Date

Local government elections in October 2007 and subsequent need for councils to reconfirm WRS Committee membership mean that a date in early 2008 (suggested as Tuesday February 12th) for a stakeholder symposium / congress is the soonest practical. The previous report to the WRS Committee on this topic had suggested that a symposium / congress be held in late 2007.

In subsequent years the intention is to have the symposium around September so as to feed into the beginning of local government annual budget review processes. This timing also suits some other stakeholder entities.

An option for the current twelve months is to defer the first WRS stakeholder symposium / congress until third quarter of 2008. This is not recommended however for the following reasons.

A range of private and public sector stakeholders contributing to the development of the WRS have expressed interest over recent months in being updated on WRS progress. It has been more than 8 months since the last Strategy Partners Forum briefing. Sitting behind the interest is a desire to consider their work programs and initiatives in light of the finalised WRS. There is also interest in contributing to and helping shape details of the implementation phase being embarked upon.

By early February 2008 a broad range of updates and WRS task plan elements will be available which would make for meaningful discussion.

4.2 Symposium / Congress Content

As the level of interaction sought from the session is at the highest levels of organisations (Board members, CEOs, and other key decision makers) considerable attention is needed to ensure the maximum value is extracted from the time allocated.

It is envisaged that a full morning session will be set aside for these decision-makers. The session would provide an update on the WRS, but put the emphasis on setting aside most of the time to discuss specific agendas for action and establish a path forward for these.

An afternoon session is also being explored as a follow on for a smaller group of officers of stakeholder entities. The purpose of this further session would be to discuss operational detail arising from 'in principle' agreements reached by the governance group in the morning.

5. Communication

It is intended that media will be invited to attend the symposium. Media statements relating to the day will be provided. Material provided to attendees to prime them for the symposium day will also be provided to the media.

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Some of this material may lend itself to development of articles which would appear in advance of the symposium to raise awareness of issues and promote discussion.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the contents of the report.
3. **Agrees** to host a symposium / congress in early February 2008 and instruct offices to make the appropriate arrangements.

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