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Committee Regulatory Committee  
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## Porirua Harbour Strategy management structure

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the proposed management structure associated with the development and implementation of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and the implications for Greater Wellington.

### 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

Porirua Harbour (comprising the Onepoto Arm and Pauatahanui Inlet) is the largest estuary in the lower North Island. The harbour has national, regional and local significance as an ecological, recreational, cultural and economic resource. The harbour catchment involves three councils - Porirua City Council, Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council. About 25% of the total harbour catchment and 75% of the Porirua Stream sub-catchment is within Wellington City.

Recognising the importance of the harbour and its catchment to the city, Porirua City Council has allocated \$2.6 million in its ten-year plan through to 2016 for the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the harbour and catchment. This strategy is an evolution of the Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan implementation programme (the "Pauatahanui Project") which has involved a successful collaboration between Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington since 2000. The proposed management structure to support the Porirua Harbour Catchment Strategy draws on the successful aspects of the Pauatahanui Project. It is intended to have a final draft strategy completed, following extensive community input, by June 2010.

## 4. Proposed Management Structure

The proposed structure to facilitate the development and implementation of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy is shown in Figure 1. The key institutional players are Porirua City Council, Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira, Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council.

The other entities highlighted in Figure 1 have the following functions:

The **Strategy Reference Group** comprises officers from the 3 councils and Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira and is intended to provide overall guidance for the strategy development.

The **Science Reference Group** is intended to provide advice to the Reference Group on the types of scientific investigations that might be required to inform and support the strategy. This group consists of officers from the 3 councils, Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira, Ministry of Fisheries and the NZ Transport Agency.

The **Inter-Agency Advisory Group** is based on a similar successful group that supported the Pauatahanui Project. It comprises officers from the 3 councils, Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira, Ministry of Fisheries, the NZ Transport Agency, Department of Conservation, QEII National Trust, OnTrack, Fish and Game, Guardians of Pauatahanui Inlet and other relevant agencies. The group meets as required and is intended to ensure interagency communication, coordination and full participation in the strategy development.

Porirua City Council is proposing to invite participating organisations to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise their commitment to providing assistance to the strategy development. Nothing in the MOU will obligate the parties to financial commitment to the Harbour strategy other than staff time.

The **Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust (PHACCT)** is modelled on, and intended to replace, the existing Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust (PICT). It has yet to be formed and the Trust Deed currently being finalised. PHACCT, a charitable trust, is intended to provide a conduit for the community to have an input into the development and implementation of the strategy and general issues relating to the harbour. It does not have a governance role but is purely advisory. Section 5.0 of the draft Trust Deed details the objectives of the Trust as follows:

The objectives of the Trust are to promote the protection, enhancement and maintenance of the Porirua Harbour and its catchment by:

- (a) *Advocating for the sustainable management of the harbour and its catchment through the protection and enhancement of the natural environment;*

- (b) *Fostering through education and community awareness the issues of ecological and environmental preservation of the harbour and its catchment;*
- (c) *Facilitating communication and coordinating input from community groups on issues relating to the protection of the harbour and its catchment and to identify and obtain funding and resources to promote the objects of the Trust.*
- (d) *Supporting, promoting and contributing to programmes and projects aimed at implementing or supporting improvements to the Porirua Harbour and its catchment where appropriate including but not limited to the control and minimisation of all forms of pollution and the promotion of effective waste disposal and recycling.*
- (e) *Doing all such other things as in the opinion of the Trustees may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives, purposes or activities of the Trust.*

As with PICT, PHACCT will comprise nominated and appointed trustee positions. The nominated positions will comprise trustees appointed from its elected members by Porirua City Council, Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington and a representative of Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira. Councillor Donaldson has represented Greater Wellington on PICT.

It is anticipated that the PHACCT deed will be finalised shortly. The Council will then be invited to become a signatory to the deed and nominate a Councillor to become a trustee.

## **5. Where to for the Pauatahanui Project?**

Once the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and associated implementation plan is complete, Greater Wellington will be in a better position to consider ongoing funding issues relating to implementing the plan.

In the meantime, Greater Wellington and Porirua City Council are committed to supporting the current successful project with its focus on working with rural landowners to reduce silt runoff into Pauatahanui Inlet. A momentum has been built up over the last couple of years reflected in landowner interest and commitment. This project is the subject of a presentation from Peter Handford at this meeting.

## **6. Communication**

Regular press releases are being issued as the project develops. Particular care is being taken to coordinate the messages coming from Greater Wellington and Porirua City to reinforce the collaborative nature of this project.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Notes** the content of the report.

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### Porirua Harbour and catchment: Management Structure

