



Report 11.5
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Committee Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management
Committee
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Consultation and engagement: next steps for 2011

1. Purpose

This paper describes the next steps in the public engagement and consultation to support the Regional Plan review process.

2. Background

In June 2010, Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Plan Committee endorsed the Engagement and Communications Plan through to 2013. The stages in the Communication Plan are referred to in Committee Report 11.2 and detailed in **Attachment 1** of the same report. There are numerous stages of public engagement taking us through to a proposed plan in 2013.

The first stage involved a series of community workshops and an online survey, undertaken thorough 2010. This stage is discussed in the previous Committee Report 11.4, 'Summary of community engagement and consultation'. Further workshops with Territorial Authorities and mana whenua Iwi are continuing. The workshop results will be presented to the community plus technical information on selected topics, in a series of seminars through the region in the first half of 2011, after these have been reviewed by Te Upoko Taiao in March.

More targeted engagement with industry, NGOs, government agencies and specific community groups will now commence. There will also be a further round of engagement with participants who attended the workshops held in 2010.

3. Comment

During 2011 most of the work in the public engagement process will be carried out in targeted stakeholder work groups over a series of meetings (described under 'Stage 4 Clarification and testing' in the Engagement and Communications Plan). These groups, facilitated by Greater Wellington staff, will have access to the results of the first round of public consultation, science and monitoring information, and information on Iwi cultural values and

interests (discussed in Committee Report 11.6, 'Progress with cultural values assessments'). The workgroups will consider key resource management issues to be addressed in the Regional Plan review process.

The Engagement and Communications Plan had anticipated participants from the first round of workshops volunteering to take part in these workgroups also. However, due to the overwhelming response from the majority of workshop participants wishing to be involved in the next stage of our process, a workshop format is required. These workshops will be held later in 2011 in catchment areas across the region to identify the criteria that people in the community use to evaluate what for them is "good" policy to manage natural resources. The workshops will include technical presentations on topics selected by the policy workgroups, followed by a facilitated group process to select criteria for assessing socially desired policies. This information will assist staff and stakeholder workgroups to develop their ideas further.

In early 2012, the stakeholder workgroups will develop policy scenarios from the technical information and feedback from previous workshops. Regional communities will be able to assess the policy scenarios developed by the workgroups in a series of regional workshops through 2012. Finally Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Management Committee is expected to decide on the policy approach for the regional plan in 2012-13.

To ensure wide involvement in the engagement process a list of key stakeholders to be invited to participate in the workgroups will be prepared from suggestions supplied by Greater Wellington councillors, Te Upoko Taiao and staff. To ensure effective communication the option of establishing account managers, from within Greater Wellington, to act as a primary point of contact around the plan review is being developed. It is likely that an account managers' role would be to work with key stakeholders and workgroup facilitators. They will encourage the key stakeholders to participate in the workgroup process and try to minimise the effects of "consultation burden" whilst aiming to maximise the value of their involvement in the process. An indicative list of stakeholder groups is listed in **Appendix A**. This list needs to be amended and added to as required, but will also need to ensure that the number of participants in a workgroup remain at a practical level for addressing and resolving priority topics.

4. Communication

Newsletters are planned to be regularly sent throughout 2011 to members of the public and key stakeholders. The first of these was circulated just prior to Christmas 2010. The newsletters will assist those people involved in the engagement to stay informed and involved through out the whole plan review process. The newsletters will provide people with updates on the engagement results and highlight upcoming activities for their further participation.

Information outlining the key steps in the plan review process and progress toward each step will be included in the newsletters and other communication material about the plan review.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Appendix A - Key stakeholder organisations