



8. SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTERIAL INQUIRY INTO THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

The Director of Finance submitted for the Committee's approval a draft submission to a Ministerial Inquiry into the electricity industry.

The Government has established a Ministerial Inquiry to examine regulatory arrangements for the New Zealand electricity sector. The members of the Panel are Hon. David Caygill (chair), Dr Susan Wakefield and Mr Stephen Kelly. The Inquiry will evaluate whether the current regulatory regime meets the Government's objective of ensuring electricity is delivered in an efficient, reliable and environmentally sustainable manner. Where existing arrangements are found not to achieve the Government's objective, the Inquiry Panel has been asked to recommend changes.

During discussion on the submission, Councillor Anderton suggested that the Council also raise with the panel the environmental impact of overhead wiring and the obligations of line companies in this respect.

As the closing date for submissions was 13 March 2000 the Committee, after amending the draft to incorporate the foregoing point, approved the submission on behalf of the Council.

A copy of the submission is attached.

Recommendation: That the action taken be confirmed.