

5. NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL PLAN – PREPARATION OF A COUNCIL SUBMISSION

Officer responsible Planning Strategy Manager	Author Jenny Ridgen, Environmental Scientist, DDI 941-8407
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The purpose of this report is to advise that a draft submission is being prepared on the five chapters of the Proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP) which were notified on Saturday 3 July 2004. Submissions close on 5 November 2004. Due to local body elections, a reduced timeframe is available to the Council for preparing submissions on the five NRRP chapters.

BACKGROUND

The five publicly notified NRRP chapters are:

- Chapter 4 Water Quality
- Chapter 5 Water Quantity
- Chapter 6 Beds and margins of lakes and rivers
- Chapter 7 Wetlands
- Chapter 8 Soil Conservation

These chapters have been developed from a series of discussion draft chapters released in October–December 2001. The Council made submissions on the draft chapters at that time and staff have been involved in discussions on specific aspects of these chapters during their subsequent development. Of all the chapters, those dealing with water quality and water quantity are of particular interest to the City Council and have the greatest impact on future development of the city. A Council seminar, held on Thursday 2 September, presented the main issues addressed in the draft submission.

PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT SUBMISSION

A series of staff teams have prepared a draft submission on each chapter and a peer review has been carried out on the initial version. The draft submission will be reviewed to incorporate feedback from the Council seminar held on Thursday 2 September.

Due to the complexity of the NRRP documents and the short time frame available, the draft submission is still being refined. The submission will not be completed in time for it to be submitted to the 23 September Council meeting for approval. Further work is required to develop the points made in the submission, to check nothing has been missed, and to ensure consistency between submissions on the various chapters. To allow time to prepare a robust submission it is requested that a subcommittee be established to approve the final submission.

FURTHER SUBMISSIONS

While the intention of the submission is to cover all issues of significance to the Council, it should be noted that the process (set out under the Resource Management Act) allows an opportunity to comment on matters raised by other submitters at the further submission stage. This process provides an opportunity to support or oppose other submissions, but does not allow for further submissions on provisions which have not attracted any formal submission in the initial stage.

COMMUNITY BOARDS

Due to the potential for conflict with a Council submission, Community Boards do not make separate submissions on plans prepared under the Resource Management Act. Community Boards wishing to raise particular issues or to provide input into the Council submission will do so through this Committee. Community Board members were invited to attend the Council seminar on 2 September, when the draft submission was discussed.

Committee

Recommendation: That a subcommittee comprising Councillors Alister James, Carole Anderton, Sally Buck, Pat Harrow, Denis O'Rourke, Sue Wells and Chrissie Williams be established with power to approve the Council's submission on Chapters 4-8 of the Natural Resources Regional Plan.