

7. **ADOPTION OF BANKS PENINSULA RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY FIRE PLAN FOR ENLARGED CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL**

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to request the Council to consider and adopt the Banks Peninsula District Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan to cover that part of the Christchurch City comprising the former Banks Peninsula District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Banks Peninsula District Council Rural Fire Authority was legally obliged to produce and adopt its own fire plan by 1 October 2005. However, in order to avoid as much duplication as possible and introduce as many common policies and procedures as possible, the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan was used as the base model. The difference was predominantly in the contact names and obviously listing local resources for the Peninsula. As a result of the merger the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan will have to reflect the total land area and total resources within its territorial area. As a short-term expediency the Council is requested to adopt the current Banks Peninsula District Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan to give legal cover until the two plans are merged and adopted by 1 October 2006.
3. This process of adoption of the Banks Peninsula District Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan is to give the Christchurch City Council an adopted operative Fire Plan to cover the former Banks Peninsula District Council Rural Fire Authority area of jurisdiction. It is mainly in the area of specific contacts and resources on the Peninsula that this plan differs from the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority Plan as the two were written from one original Christchurch Plan.
4. Between now and 1 October 2006 staff will combine the two documents so that there is one Fire Plan covering the combined land area of Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula. This will of course necessitate the Council formally adopting the new plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council as the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority adopt the Banks Peninsula District Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan to cover the Banks Peninsula area of Christchurch City Council as required by Regulation 39(1) of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

BACKGROUND ON ADOPTION OF BANKS PENINSULA RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY FIRE PLAN FOR ENLARGED CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

5. The Christchurch City Council Principal Rural Fire Officer consulted the National Rural Fire Authority to clarify the legal requirements for the Christchurch City Council RFA to have an approved operative Fire Plan for the recently merged geographic area of Banks Peninsula.
6. The response from the National Rural fire Authority was:
 - “(a) That after the merger occurs a new Fire Plan for the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority for its territorial area (that excludes any Rural Fire District, Urban Fire District and any State Area as defined by the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977) is in place by 1 October 2006; and*
 - (b) The Christchurch City Council adopts the current Banks Peninsula District Council Fire Plan as its adopted Fire Plan.”*
7. This latter process will cover the legal necessity to have an operative Fire Plan for the Christchurch City Council for the geographic region of Banks Peninsula until such time as a rewritten plan covering the total territorial area can be produced and adopted by 1 October 2006.