

12. COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY DOCUMENTS



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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of submissions to central government on draft climate change and energy policy and strategy documents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Submissions close on 30 March 2007 for a number of draft discussion documents and strategies put forward by central government. Attached to this report are two draft submissions prepared by Council officers, for the Council to consider and approve. Each submission responds to a different, but related, set of documents.
3. Attachment 1 responds to the following documents related to climate change:
 - *Discussion paper on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand post 2012.*
 - *Discussion paper on transitional measures: options to move low emissions electricity and stationary energy supply and to facilitate a transition to greenhouse gas pricing in the future.*
 - *Sustainable land management and climate change: options for a plan of action.*
 - *Design options for a tradable deforestation permit regime: a supplementary discussion document for the sustainable land management and climate change consultation.*
4. Attachment 2 responds to the following documents related to energy:
 - *Draft New Zealand Energy Strategy.*
 - *Draft Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy.*
5. Because of the interconnected nature of the topics covered by the above documents the Council submissions complement each other. The Council submissions are also supported by two separate submissions made by Local Government New Zealand on the climate change and energy documents. Council officers were appointed to national working groups to help prepare the Local Government New Zealand submissions.
5. Summary of key points contained in the Council submissions:
 - The Council views climate change and energy efficiency and conservation as critical issues and supports decisive government action in these areas.
 - New Zealand must take a proactive approach in confronting these issues, to ensure the future well being of our communities, to enhance our competitive advantage and to deliver on community outcomes and aspirations for a clean green reality.
 - A clear and compelling vision for the country that is underpinned by sound principles and challenging goals is needed from central government to address climate change, energy efficiency and more broadly sustainability. These goals must be robust and go beyond "business as usual" achievements.
 - The Council strongly supports central government's aspirations to be a world leading, carbon neutral and truly sustainable country.
 - Long-term and ongoing partnerships between central and local government and with industry is needed to deliver solutions.
 - The Council is willing to play an active part in the planning and delivery of solutions and take a leading role for its community.
 - Options that deliver multiple values / benefits and that encourage desirable behaviour, are preferred by the Council.
 - Options that are punitive and inflexible are not preferred by Council.
 - New Zealand must be a responsible global citizen, taking an active role in helping other countries, especially Pacific Island nations, mitigate and adapt to climate change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. No financial implications directly flow from this report. However, these central government policies and strategies could have significant impacts on this Council.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

5. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. No legal implications directly flow from this report. However, these central government policies and strategies could have significant impacts on this Council.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

7. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

8. Not applicable.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

9. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

10. These draft policy documents link with many Council strategies, both existing and under development, including the Urban Development Strategy, Sustainable Energy Strategy, Transportation Strategy, Water Supply Strategy, and the Sustainability Policy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

11. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

12. This report relates to a central government consultation process.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council submit to central government the attached responses to the strategies and discussion documents.