

9. PROPOSED NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR WATER MEASURING DEVICES



General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Mark Christison, City Water and Waste Manager
Author:	Diane Shelander

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a submission on the Ministry for the Environment's proposal for a national environmental standard for water measuring devices.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. At the 15 February 2007 meeting, the Council considered a report on the proposed National Environmental Standard for Water Measuring Devices (NES). The Council resolved that Councillors Buck and Harrow work with staff and Environment Canterbury to revise the draft submission to reflect the Council's concerns regarding the likely financial implications for local authorities, and report back to the Council.
3. Following consultation with Environment Canterbury and Councillors Buck and Harrow, staff prepared a revised submission (Attachment 1).
4. After the 15 February Council meeting, staff requested that the Ministry for the Environment extend the deadline for submissions on the NES. An extension to 23 February was granted. In order to meet the 23 February deadline, staff provided a submission to the Ministry, advising them that while the submission had been reviewed by Councillors, it had not been formally endorsed by the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. As noted in the 15 February 2007 report, costs may be incurred by the Council in order to comply with the standard, which could include the purchase and installation of new water measuring devices where none are currently installed as well as replacement of existing non-conforming devices and calibration and maintenance of equipment. Because the Ministry has not yet completed a cost benefit analysis and the NES has not yet be drafted, the impacts to the Council are not fully known at this point.

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

6. Pending the final form of the NES, there may be costs to the Council which have not been included in the 2006-16 LTCCP budget.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. The Legal Services Unit has been consulted, and advised staff to make a submission on 23 February in order to meet the Ministry's extended deadline. They also advised that staff put this report to the Council as soon as possible for consideration and subsequent follow-up with the Ministry.

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

7. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

8. Aligns with the LTCCP, page 60, strategic directions; page 62, goals and objectives; page 165, water supply.

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

9. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

10. Aligns with the Water Supply Asset Management Plan.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

11. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

12. Environment Canterbury was consulted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council endorse Attachment 1 as the submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the proposed National Environmental Standard on Water Measuring Devices.