

7. CENTRAL PLAINS WATER TRUST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning, DDI 941-8177
Officer responsible:	General Manager Strategy and Planning
Author:	Michael Day, Finance Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present for Council's consideration the attached 2007 Statement of Intent (SOI) Central Plains Water Trust ('CPWT') and report on the Financial Statements of CPWT for the six month period ending 31 December 2006.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. CPWT was established in 2003 by the Christchurch City and Selwyn District Councils as joint settlers to create a sustainable development of central Canterbury's water.
3. CPWT administers Central Plains Water Limited, which was formed by the Christchurch City and Selwyn District Council to procure consents and operate a water enhancement scheme, providing water for community farmers within the Central Plains. The company is now owned by a number of external shareholders and the Christchurch City Council only owns one share out of 376,000. CPWL is not a council-controlled organisation and is not required to prepare a SOI.
4. No changes have been made to the SOI by the Trust, to that received and approved by the Council in 2006.
5. The financial statements for the six months ending 31 December 2006 are also attached. There are a number of key points in this statement to note.
 - Hearings of the CPWL application to ECan/Selwyn District are likely to be conducted in June 2007.
 - The question of priority rights for 'A permit' water from the Waimakariri river was sought from the Environment Court (EC) by Ngai Tahu during 2006. The EC decision was appealed by the Trust to the High Court. The High Court has held that Ngai Tahu as an earlier applicant does have priority 'A permit' rights to the water from the Waimakariri. The financial report notes that CWPL has sought leave from the Court to further appeal this decision. This is pending. The report further notes that irrespective of the outcome of the Court's decision the proposed water scheme by CWPL remains financially viable.
 - The third point to note is the need for the settlers to reconfirm the trustees to be appointed to represent environmental protection agencies. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment to make recommendations to the Trust for these positions, to be agreed by the Christchurch City Council. The appointment of these trustees will be the subject of a separate report to the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to CPWT.

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

5. See above.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

7. Yes: The status of the SOI has been considered by Legal Services Unit.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

8. Yes.

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. No specific strategies involved.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

11. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

12. Yes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council receive the Statement of Intent for the year ending 30 June 2008 and the Financial Statements for the six month period ended 31 December 2006.