

## 7. APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Manager, Civil Defence Emergency Management
<b>Author:</b>	Murray Sinclair

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the appointment of a Principal Rural Fire Officer, in accordance with the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Forest and Rural Fires Act provides that where a Fire Authority appoints one or more persons as a Rural Fire Officer, the Fire Authority must appoint one of these officers as Principal Rural Fire Officer. The Council currently has 29 persons holding Rural Fire Officers warrants and is therefore required to appoint a Principal Rural Fire Officer.
3. Under the Forest and Rural Fires Act the Council is a Fire Authority and is required to promote and carry out fire control measures for those rural areas that are outside the gazetted Urban Fire District ie, outside the NZ Fire Service's area of responsibility.
4. The Forest and Rural Fire Regulations requires all Rural Fire Officers to be issued with a warrant of appointments. The warrant of appointment must be signed by the chief executive of the local authority if the Fire Authority for the district in which the Rural Fire Officer is employed is the local authority. The warrants of appointment for Rural Fire Officers are in force for 10 years, or until the person ceases to be a Rural Fire Officer.
5. The Council first appointed Mr Keith Marshall as Principal Rural Fire Officer on 1 July 2002 for a term of three years and he was reappointed to this position again on 30 June 2005 for a further three years. Mr Marshall has more than 30 years experience as a Rural Fire Officer including 13 years with the Council. He was Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer prior to July 2002.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Nil.

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

7. Yes.

### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. As well as the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 (being the principal Act relating to this appointment) there are additional provisions in the following legislation relating to this appointment, and to forest and rural fires:
  - (a) Local Government Act 2002
  - (b) Fire Service Act 1975
  - (c) Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council agree to the appointment of Keith Marshall as Principal Rural Fire Officer in accordance with the Forest and Rural Fires Act and Forest 1977 and the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005 reporting directly to the Manager, Civil Defence Emergency Management.