

17. RESULTS OF THE COUNCIL SEMINAR RESULTS ON THE “SUSTAINABLE LIVING STRATEGY” – MISSION STATEMENT, TERMS OF REFERENCE

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At the June Council meeting, the Council requested a seminar on the status of the Sustainable Living Strategy project to provide adequate discussion on the proposed Mission Statement and Terms of Reference for the project. The seminar was held on 31 July.

As a result of that seminar, this report outlines some recommended changes and seeks the Council's adoption of the slightly revised Terms of Reference and Mission Statement for the project.

BACKGROUND

In July 2000 the Council approved involvement in the Canterbury Sustainable Living Strategy, including representation by Councillors Close, Crighton, Evans and Wells (with Councillors Harrow and Manning as proxies).

The Sustainable Living Strategy involves the district councils of Ashburton, Banks Peninsula, Hurunui, Selwyn, and Waimakariri, the Christchurch City Council, and Environment Canterbury working jointly on a strategic planning process targeted at setting out 50-year outcomes for the area covered between Hurunui and Ashburton.

Council members and staff have been involved over the past few months in developing a terms of reference and mission statement, as well as the outline of a proposed process for the development of this 50 year vision.

On 7 May the politicians and staff from all the councils involved met for the morning for a presentation on community visioning exercises by Robin Gunston of the New Zealand Futures Trust based in Wellington. The draft Mission Statement and Terms of Reference were circulated and briefly discussed at the meeting, and it was recommended that each council consider these for adoption.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL SEMINAR

As a result of the Council seminar held on 31 July, there were a few recommended changes to the Mission Statement and Terms of Reference. These discussions were held following presentation and discussion with Council staff, staff from Environment Canterbury and consultant Robin Gunston (NZ Futures Trust).

Overall the seminar recommended the following:

- A more direct description in point two of the Mission Statement “to identify gaps, linkages and strategies to move towards the vision” (removing the preamble)
- Changing “Politicians’ Team” to “Elected Members”
- Including six City Councillors (as opposed to four with two alternates)
- Changing the final heading from “Products” to “Outcomes” and ensuring these outcomes do not include points of process (thus point 2 was amended (see below) and original point 4 be deleted)
- That Councillor Austin replace Councillor Manning on the Elected Members Team

These recommendations are included in the amended Mission Statement and Terms of Reference included below.

AMENDED MISSION STATEMENT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

MISSION STATEMENT

- *To understand the likely future of the study area in 50 years and develop a vision for that area.*
- ~~*To identify paths from the likely future matters to the existing planning and policy process*~~ *To identify gaps, linkages and strategies to move towards the vision.*
- *To implement the strategy through appropriate agreements, partnerships and actions.*

PROJECT STATEMENT

The District Councils of Ashburton, Banks Peninsula, Hurunui, Selwyn, and Waimakariri, the Christchurch City Council, and Environment Canterbury agreed to work jointly on a strategic planning process targeted at setting out 50-year outcomes for the area covered between Hurunui and Ashburton. Fundamental to the process is a consensus building approach directed at:

- Setting a vision or visions for the future;
- Identifying those issues which the Councils jointly or individually can have some influence over; and
- Identifying the goals and strategies needed to move towards a preferred future.

By working together, the intention is to find the best and most effective ways to achieve those goals.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

1. *Politicians' Elected Members Team*

Each of the primary stakeholders will appoint members of their councils to serve as representatives from its council to serve on the *Politicians' Elected Members Team*. It is solely to the discretion of each council to name and appoint its team members.

The *Politicians' Elected Members Team* is presently composed of the following members:

Ashburton District Council	1 Councillor appointed
Banks Peninsula District Council	2 Councillors appointed
Christchurch City Council	6 Councillors appointed and 2 alternates
Environment Canterbury	4 Councillors appointed
Hurunui District Council	3 Councillors appointed
Selwyn District Council	3 Councillors appointed
Waimakariri District Council	5 Councillors appointed

The *Politicians' Elected Members Team* shall have a facilitator or elected chairperson to conduct its meetings. The facilitator or chairperson along with the Technical Team will prepare each agenda. Items for discussion shall be submitted to the facilitator or chairperson for inclusion.

The *Politicians' Elected Members Team* shall serve as the policy advisers, goal setters and tacticians for development of the strategy, and to ensure the implementation of the strategy. Member councillors will be responsible for liaison with each Council, and its respective communities.

2. *Technical Team*

The efforts of the *Politicians' Elected Members Team* will be supported by a Technical Team of officers and others with specific issue related skills to oversee the development of the strategy and work programme and to provide all information necessary for the development of the strategy.

STUDY AREA

The study area includes all of the area between Ashburton District and Hurunui District inclusive of the territorial sea.

PROCESS

The process will be one that works for and is agreed to by all team members. The process will strive to be:

- A vision led process
- Action Oriented
- Integrated
- Consultative

By the end of September 2001, a work programme will be adopted that defines the process for the way forward (milestones and timing). At a future date, key stakeholders and a consultative programme will have to be determined.

RESOURCES

Environment Canterbury is dedicating a staff person and a significant amount of financial resources to support the process through fiscal year 2002-2003. Each local authority will participate with financial and staff resources to the best of its ability. If at a future date a specific resourcing scheme is needed, the parties involved will develop it.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The success of this project will require close participation of the Politicians' Elected Members Team. It is accepted that the following concepts apply to the councils participating:

1. It is voluntary.
2. It is flexible in the way they work, and in their respective levels of participation.
3. It is collaborative.
4. It is egalitarian; all will have equal standing in the way they work, and equal rights of participation in all discussions and decisions.

PRODUCTS OUTCOMES

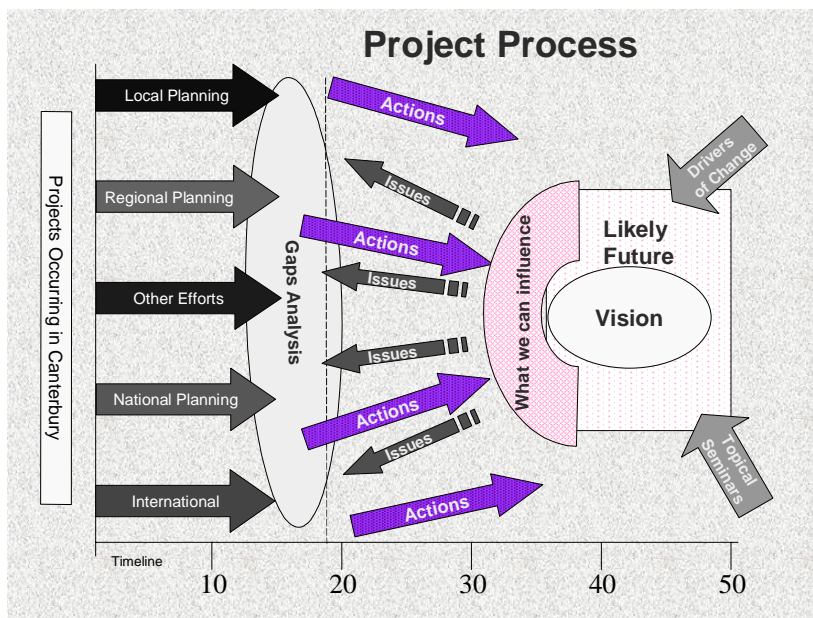
1. Develop a vision for the study area in the next 50 years.
2. Increased community awareness and acceptance of the vision, goals and strategies, by being integral members of the team in promoting the project and its products.
3. Develop goals and strategies for the study area, which will provide guidance for the future of the community.
4. Collaboration on preparation of local visions with newly elected councils.
5. Implement the strategies through appropriate agreements, partnerships and actions.

CITY COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT AND RESOURCING

At this stage, as the proposed Terms of Reference outlines, each council is participating in this effort to the best of their ability. There are a number of political representatives who will be guiding the process, and at this stage 3 senior staff are participating on the Technical Team and will be providing advice to the politicians. At this stage staff believe there are adequate resources (staff and budget) to meet the project's needs for 2001/2002. As the project develops a more detailed work programme and identifies further investigations, there may be additional funding required for 2002/2003.

PROCESS FROM HERE

Staff have made a presentation outlining the proposed process including identification of: a long-term vision and likely future outcomes, the long-term projects currently underway, the issues and "gaps" which arise between the vision and current projects (or practices), and finally the development of appropriate action strategies to achieve the vision.



CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

A number of issues will need to be resolved over the coming months including:

- An “acceptable” and ideally “catchy” name for the project
- An overall communication strategy
- The process for community engagement
- The process for establishing a vision
- A timeline for series of public presentations on relevant topics
- The overall timeframe

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Terms of Reference and Mission Statement for the Sustainable Living Strategy be adopted.
 2. That the change of Elected Member representation from four Councillors and two alternates be amended to six Councillors.

Chairman’s Recommendation: Not seen by Chairman.