

20. COMMUNITY BOARD PLANNING STATEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to inform Community Boards of a proposal for changing the manner in which the Board's Annual Planning Statements are received by Council. The changed proposal should enable Board's to have more direct input and comment to the Council on key issues in the community.

BACKGROUND

For a number of years Boards have prepared annual planning statements. Such statements have included a list of potential new projects for the Council Units considerations (Project Proposals), together with a series of more philosophical views on issues in the respective communities (Issues). Both the Project Proposals and the Issues have been forwarded to the Units and/or senior Council officers for comment. While the potential new projects have, generally, been well answered there has been little formal recognition of the Issues.

For some months Community Advocates have been considering how the Board's view can be better acknowledged within the Council's annual planning process. This matter has also been discussed at the Community Boards Chairperson's Forum where it has been agreed that the present process should be improved.

PROPOSED CHANGE

It should be noted that the following proposal for change is subject to consideration, and adoption at the August meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

In summary the Key Issues (sometimes also called Statement of Priorities) are now proposed to be forwarded to the Council's Standing Committees for their respective consideration at the time of receipt of their annual monitoring reports. With the financial year just having finished, Units are presently preparing reports on the various achievements (against earlier set performance indicators), and it is expected Committees will receive their relevant annual monitoring reports in September.

The opportunity to also receive the community's views on standards/practices/levels of commitment could be of assistance to the Committees in their monitoring and planning role.

TIMING FOR PREPARATION OF 2001 PLANNING STATEMENTS

As the timing for submission of the Boards lists of "Project Proposals" is not affected by the forthcoming Local Body Elections, Boards have until their September meetings to finalise these.

In the case of the preparation of Key Issues however, there is a need for these to be completed and forwarded in time for inclusion in the Standing Committee agendas. With the first of these Committees due to meet on 7 September (Resource Management Committee) it would seem appropriate for the Board's "Key Issues" to be prepared by 24 August.

SUMMARY

A proposed change to the process for consideration of Key Issues, prepared by Community Boards, provides an enhanced means of providing input to the Council's annual planning process.

To achieve the presentation of such issues will, generally, require the Boards to complete their consideration of these by 24 August 2001.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the proposed change for consideration of Key Issues prepared by Community Boards be noted.
 2. That it be noted that the proposed change is subject to endorsement by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 13 August.

3. That Boards commence their planning for the preparation of Key Issues (and Project Proposals) as part of the 2002/03 annual planning process.
4. That Boards complete the Key Issues component of their Planning Statement by 24 August in order to meet Standing Committee deadlines.

Chairperson

Recommendation: That the information be received.