

13. CAPITAL ENDOWMENT FUND - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Officer responsible Community Relations Manager | Author Julie Sadler, DDI 371-1438 |
| Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability | |

The purpose of this report is to finalise the arrangements for hearing public submissions on the Council's proposal for the disposition of the Council's share of funds from the sale of Orion's North Island gas network.

At its February meeting the Council approved the process for consulting the public on the future use of these funds and resolved (in part):

"That a special hearing be held to consider submissions on this issue in either late June or early July after the other submissions on the draft Financial Plan have been heard."

This year's hearings are scheduled for 19-22 and 25, 26 and 28 June. Based on past experience it will take approximately four days to hear the general submissions on the draft plan unless, of course, more submitters than usual wish to present their submission in person. It is suggested that general submissions be heard on the first four days (19-22 June) and the submissions on the proposed use of the Orion capital repatriation funds be heard on 25 and (if necessary) 26 June.

Another point that needs to be clarified relates to multiple submissions. If the Council resolution is followed to the letter then some submitters will need to attend the hearings twice. This could be quite inconvenient to the submitters concerned. To overcome this, it is suggested that these submitters be offered the option of dealing with this issue as part of their general submission.

Recommendation: That the Committee finalise the procedure for hearing submissions on the Council proposals for the future use of the proceeds from the sale of certain assets of Orion NZ Ltd.

Chairman's Recommendation:

1. That submissions on the use of the Orion capital repatriation be heard on 25 and (if necessary) 26 June.
2. That submitters making multiple submissions be offered the option of dealing with the Orion capital repatriation issue as part of their general submission.