

10. APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Acting Greenspace Manager
Author:	Keith Marshall, Principal Rural Fire Officer – DDI 941 8781

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the appointment of a Principal Rural Fire Officer for a three year term.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 provides that where a Council has appointed one or more persons as a Rural Fire Officer, the Council must appoint a Principal Rural Fire Officer. The Council has 12 persons holding Rural Fire Officers warrants.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

3. 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 and bylaws 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 1979
 - (d) Christchurch City Fires Bylaw 1991

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Agree to the appointment of an "in-house" Principal Rural Fire Officer reporting directly to the Greenspace Manager.
- (b) Appoint Mr Keith Marshall as Principal Rural Fire Officer for a further term of three (3) years under Section 13(1) of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, commencing on 1 July 2005.

BACKGROUND

4. The Council appointed Mr Keith Marshall as Principal Rural Fire Officer on 1 July 2002 for a term of three (3) years. The Council is legally required to appoint a Principal Rural Fire Officer.

OPTIONS

5. The Greenspace Unit recommends that Mr Keith Marshall be re-appointed for a further term of three (3) years commencing on 1 July 2005. 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.

PREFERRED OPTION

6. The preferred option is that the Council, under Section 13(1) of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, appoint Keith Marshall as Principal Rural Fire Officer for a further term of three (3) years commencing on 1 July 2005.
7. The chosen option is to continue to have an in-house Principal Rural Fire Officer, reporting directly to the Greenspace Manager.