

8. APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, City Environment Group, DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Unit Manager, Civil Defence Emergency Management
Author:	Murray Sinclair, Unit Manager, Civil Defence Emergency Management



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 26 persons holding Rural Fire Officer warrants and is therefore required to appoint a Principal 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, that is outside the New Zealand 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 previous Principal Rural Fire Officer, Mr Keith Marshall, retired on 29 February 2012. Mr Darrin Woods has been employed as Principal Rural Fire Officer. Mr Woods is well qualified for this role of Principal Rural Fire Officer having previously worked for the Department of Conservation and overseas in fire management roles.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Nil.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 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 in accordance with the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 and the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005, agree to the appointment of Mr Darrin Woods as Principal Rural Fire Officer.