



**AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE,  
6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY,  
28 JUNE 2005, COMMENCING AT 12 NOON.**

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**1 APOLOGIES**



**2 URGENT BUSINESS**

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the Committee by resolution so decides; and
- (ii) the Chairperson has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion and decision, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The Committee may make a decision on a matter determined to be urgent.

**NOTE:** Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



**3 ANNUAL PLAN 2005/2006 AND AMENDMENTS TO THE LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN**

The Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan Special Committee has been deliberating on the Annual Plan 2005/2006 and the Statement of Proposal to amend the Long Term Council Community Plan. The Special Committee is required to make recommendations to the Council in order for the Annual Plan 2005/2006 to be adopted along with the amendments to the Long Term Council Community Plan.

Recommendations from the Special Committee are expected to be presented at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Annual Plan 2005/2006 and Amendments to the Long Term Council Community Plan report be received.
2. That the Council consider the recommendations from the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan Special Committee.

Report prepared by: Ngareta Delamere, Committee Secretary.



## 4 ASSESSMENT OF WATER AND SANITARY SERVICES

### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Council the adoption of the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services.

### BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2002, Part 7, Sections 123 to 136 requires Council to undertake an Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services. In this context water includes drinking water, wastewater and stormwater; and sanitary services include cemeteries, crematoria, solid waste and public toilets.

Section 128 of the Act requires the Council to consider a holistic approach for the assessment and to consider a full range of options and technologies available to meet current and future demands for services.

The Local Government Act 2002 also requires Council to adopt the assessment of using the special consultative procedure and to consider any comments by the Medical Officer of Health. Submissions on the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services opened on Monday, 18 April 2005 and closed on Wednesday, 18 May 2005, 210 submissions were received. Those submitters wishing to be heard presented their submissions to a meeting of the City Development Committee on Wednesday, 22 June 2005.

In addition, the Auckland Regional Council's Air, Land and Water Plan has become operative and this has a major bearing on the environmental standards for water and sanitary services and hence costs.

It is essential that these issues are understood by the community as they will have a significant effect on the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan.

### STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Council's *Three Waters* platform has the objective of establishing Waitakere as a centre of innovative water management. One of the success measures is that sustainable management solutions for stormwater, water and wastewater are achieved in all new development areas. The consideration of new technologies is fundamental to this achievement.

Planning for water, wastewater and stormwater services is included in the Sector Agreement developed with Rodney District Council, North Shore City Council and the Auckland Regional Council. This Agreement states that Sector partners will share technical knowledge and work co-operatively on innovative approaches for managing stormwater and wastewater.

Over the planning horizon greenfield expansion may occur in:

- Waitakere City Council's northern strategic growth area (NORSGA) of Whenuapai, Hobsonville Peninsula, Hobsonville Corridor and Massey North, Red Hills and the western areas of Babich and Penihana;
- Rodney District Council's Kumeu and Riverhead townships; and
- North Shore City Council's Greenhithe area.

An integrated planning approach to development of these areas by all three Councils may have economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits to the Northern and Western Regions as a whole.

The Council's 2020 Vision for Zero Waste is that Waitakere will be a clean and attractive city that turns all its waste into resources. Thus the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services provides details of how Council aims to achieve its vision.

The provision of cemeteries, crematoria and public toilets supports a number of Council's strategic platforms.

## ISSUES

The Local Government Act 2002 requires territorial local authorities to assess the provision of water-related and other sanitary services within its district.

Specific information required from the assessment for each identified community includes:

- A description of the services provided;
- An assessment of risks to communities relating to the absence of services;
- The quality, quantity and adequacy of services provided;
- The current and estimated future demand;
- The territorial authority's role and proposals for meeting these demands;
- The options available to meet the forecast demands and the suitability of each;
- The health and environmental impacts of discharges and other sanitary services;
- The extent to which public health is adequately protected.

The Local Government Act requires the first assessment to be completed by 30 June 2005. To meet this deadline, community consultation was carried out in April and May 2005.

The Local Government Act Part 7 defines "Water Services" as all 3 waters: water supply, wastewater and stormwater. All forms of supply and delivery systems servicing 'communities' must be assessed as to adequacy of supply for present and future demands, and with respect to any risks to the supply and the associated community.

Much of the urban area is serviced by well-recorded and maintained reticulated pipe systems for all three waters. Asset and Catchment Management Plans contain most of the information required for assessment of these services, but the Act requires that the process still be carried out.

The outlying rural communities are more difficult to assess as Council records are less complete and most systems will be privately owned and maintained.

Examples of non-Council water services would include:

- Stand alone activities: schools, correction facilities and private schemes;
- Small rural and holiday settlements;
- Small lot rural-residential and bush living subdivisions;
- Marae and other cultural settlements.

The Local Government Act Part 7 (in referring to the Health Act section 25) defines “Sanitary Services” as cemeteries, crematoria, public toilets and waste disposal.

Section 129 of the Local Government Act limits the extent of information, and the local authority’s efforts to obtain it, to:

- The significance of the information;
- The costs of, and difficulty in, obtaining the information;
- The extent of the territorial authority’s resources, and
- The possibility of the local authority’s direction under the Health Act to provide the relevant services.

The full range of options and their environmental and public health impacts must be considered in the assessment. These options must include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- On-site collection and disposal methods;
- Greywater and stormwater reuse or recycling;
- Demand reduction strategies including public education and information, promotion of appropriate technologies, pricing strategies and regulation;
- The full range of technologies available.

In line with the Council’s strategic direction 70% of growth over the next 20 years will be in existing urban areas and it will be necessary to ensure adequate capacity for growth.

Traditional planning is based on a 20 year planning horizon. However, as the lifecycle of infrastructure typically exceeds 50 years, short term planning (i.e. up to 20 years) may compromise longer-term development and a 50-year planning horizon is now considered more appropriate.

Robust and flexible strategies that result in long-term management solutions meeting community outcomes and conforming to Council’s Vision of sustainability as conveyed by its strategic platforms are required.

The assessment will also need to address cross boundary issues and incorporate integrated management solutions where appropriate.

The Assessment of Water Services takes into account the Auckland Regional Council’s (ARC) Variation to the *Proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water* and the *Proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal* that sets environmental standards for the performance of stormwater and wastewater networks.

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

The decision and consultation process for the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services has been as follows:

- |                      |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>16 March 2005</b> | - | Council meeting to workshop the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services. |
| <b>30 March 2005</b> | - | Council Zero Waste Workshop.   |

- 18 April to 18 May 2005**
- Special Consultative Process.
  - Public notification in newspapers in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.
  - Consultation with the Water Focus Group .
  - Special Edition of Waitakere City News sent to every home in the city.
  - Three (3) Community Workshops at New Lynn Community Centre, Trusts Stadium and Massey Community Centre.
  - Presentation to Community Boards.
  - Community Boards Workshop.
  - Consultation with Citizens Against Privatisation.
  - Letters sent to every property owner with an onsite wastewater system.
  - Information available on Council's website and on a dvd-rom.
  - Consultation with the Medical Officer of Health.
- June 2005**
- Council hearings (via City Development Committee) and adoption of the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services.

As the assessment will be a significant input into the Long Term Council Community Plan, further consideration and consultation will occur in the period March 2006/June 2006 as part of the Long Term Council Community Plan consultation and decision making process.

### STATEMENT OF PROPOSALS

Public consultation, using the special consultative procedure, has been completed on the key proposals including the following:

Activity	Proposal
Water Supply	Reduce domestic water usage per person by 25% by 2025
Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 50% reduction in wastewater overflows by 2025;</li> <li>• Consideration of targeted rates or wastewater charges based on 80% of water use;</li> <li>• Providing a yearly inspection certificate for rural properties with septic tanks, at an estimated annual cost of \$50.</li> </ul>
Stormwater	Reduce flooding and improve the quality of streams, lakes and harbours.
Solid Waste	Progress Council's Zero Waste strategy by 2015.
Cemeteries	Provide a new cemetery or extend Waikumete Cemetery by 2021.
Public Toilets	Complete the current 5 year programme and thereafter facilitate the provision of new public toilets.

### RESULTS OF CONSULTATION AND SUBMISSIONS

Feedback and submissions from the community has been provided through the following processes:

- 210 written submissions;
- Comprehensive worksheets from the various workshops; and
- Submissions through the Annual Plan process.

Councillors have been provided with a full copy of submissions and a detailed summary of the submissions with appropriate commentary.

### GENERAL FEEDBACK

The key conclusions that can be drawn from the submissions are as follows:

- 90% of respondents supported Council's strategic direction:
  - Making the installation of rain tanks compulsory;
  - To reduce water use to provide for a sustainable future;
  - For the public to be better educated about all aspects of the three waters in terms of sustainable management;
  - For costs to be kept to a minimum.
- 50 submissions were received opposing the proposed \$50 annual inspection fee for onsite wastewater systems and the associated inspection certificate. Accordingly, it is not proposed to pursue this option. It is recommended that Council continues to monitor the performance of on-site wastewater systems and carry out pilot projects on high risk areas such as Huia and Piha;
- Support for the Zero Waste strategy; and
- Support for Council's on-going role in the maintenance and development of public toilets.

The submissions provide many detailed suggestions for activities and programmes that could be implemented by Council to achieve its strategic outcomes. These suggestions will be costed and prioritised as work programmes that will be reported to the City Development Committee in October 2005.

### WAIKUMETE CEMETERY

The draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services raised the issue of capacity constraints at Waikumete Cemetery and the need to plan for future burial services.

Feedback from the community is summarised in the table below.

Option	Importance				
	None	Low	Neutral	Very	Extreme
Closing Waikumete in 2021	45%	16%	19%	7%	13%
Purchasing land for a new cemetery	31%	15%	22%	11%	21%
Extending Waikumete to 2055	16%	7%	8%	9%	60%
Implementation of new burial technologies	10%	3%	11%	14%	62%
Encouraging private enterprise to provide a new cemetery	54%	11%	16%	7%	12%

Based on the results of the consultation process it is proposed to progress proposals to extend Waikumete Cemetery to 2055 and implement new technologies. These proposals will be developed in further detail during 2005/2006 to enable further consultation in 2006/2007.

## RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

At the City Development Committee's Special meeting of 22 June 2005, the Committee received submissions and presentations from submitters, and based on these submissions, resolved to recommend to Council the adoption of the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services. A copy of the resolutions will be distributed under separate cover, as these were not available at the time of preparing this agenda report, and any recommended amendments to the Assessment will be highlighted.

## RESOURCES

Provision has been made as the Long Term Council Community Plan for the Assessment of Water Services. The funding allocation covers the cost of various models required and specialist technical input to the assessment.

Any resource implications arising from the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services will be reported to Council through the 2006/2016 Long Term Council Community Plan process.

## CONCLUSION

The special consultative procedure on the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services has been completed, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

The City Development Committee has considered public submissions and has resolved to recommend to Council the adoption of the draft Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services, with a number of amendments arising from public consultation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services report be received.
2. That the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services, as amended by recommendation of the City Development Committee, be adopted by Council.

Report prepared by: Tony Miguel, Group Manager: Asset Management.

