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Me Heke ki Pōneke
Wellington City Council

Appendix A

Enviroschools funding request

1. The Proposal

The proposal is to provide funding support of $10k in 2010/11 to support the Wellington City Enviroschools programme.

2. Proposal Costs

Project costs per year										
	Operating expenses $000									
Project Component	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Enviroschools funding	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. Discussion

The Enviroschools programme is designed to engage young people in creating sustainable schools and communities. Schools work with a local facilitator to take action to implement deliver education programmes, action-oriented programmes for the school and communities.

The programme – overseen by the Enviroschools Foundation – works closely with regional and local authorities to implement the programme, and has a wider support network including: Ministry for the Environment, the Department of Conservation, sustainable businesses, iwi and community and environmental groups.

The Enviroschools programme now has 600 schools involved around the country – 22 percent of New Zealand schools. Forty seven other regional and territorial authorities provide funding support for the Enviroschools programme, including all of the councils in the Wellington Region, except for Upper Hutt City.

In 2006, the Council began contributing $11k per year to Enviroschools ($7k through grants and $4k through annual plan line item). The programme was delivered to ten schools in Wellington City and there are two waitlisted schools and five more expressing interest. The annual plan funding stopped after 2008/09, and as part of the 2009/19 long-term plan, the Wellington Region Enviroschools requested $20k per annum in funding support to maintain and extend their Enviroschools programme. The funding would support a local facilitator who would work directly with Wellington schools.

Without the facilitator, the programme cannot be delivered to Wellington schools.

Council decided not to fund the Enviroschools programme through the long-term plan until a planned Government review of the programme was complete and officers had had the opportunity to make a determination on what future role the Council should have in the Enviroschool programme. Council decided that in the interim the Enviroschools programme should continue to apply for environmental grants until this work has been completed.

The Wellington Enviroschools Programme requested $20k in grant funding in the July funding round in 2009. In September 2009, officers recommended $10k in grant funding be allocated. The Grants Subcommittee recognised the value of the programme by agreeing to the officers' recommendation. However, the EnviroSchools Programme stated they could not operate the programme in Wellington with $10k. In the end, the Grants Sub-Committee agreed that no funding would be granted as the $20k was viewed as unaffordable given the limited pool size.

Government funding support

In June 2009, notwithstanding the ongoing review, the Ministry of Education announced it was withdrawing its support for all Education for Sustainability initiatives (including Enviroschools) by December 2009 based on the new priorities of the Government. However, this position was subsequently reviewed as a result of the Government's agreement with the Maori Party on the emissions trading scheme (ETS) legislation. The agreement resulted in the Enviroschools Foundation receiving six additional months of funding support from the Ministry for the Environment and Te Puni Kokiri from January 2010 to June 2010. From July 2010 onwards, The Enviroschools Foundation is looking toward a range of options including the national Waste Minimisation Fund and sponsorships. Local Government remains the key funding support for the Enviroschools programme at a regional and local level. The Government is still reviewing its position.

Relationship with Council outcomes

There have been some concerns that this programme should be funded by Central Government because of overlaps with curriculum objectives to promote sustainability. However, the programme has set-up a funding model whereby:

- government funding covers the national management and support
- the regional council funds regional coordinators who establish programmes with the local facilitators
- local councils fund local facilitators who implement the programmes to schools.

The programme complements a number of initiatives that the Council runs that promote an awareness of the environment and conservation. Examples include:

- waste minimisation information and demonstrations
- biodiversity education programmes offered through Otari Wilton's Bush
- activities at the Tree House

- zoo programmes
- mural projects coordinated by the City Arts Team.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council consult on a one-off contribution of $10k to support a local facilitator in the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan. It is also recommended that the Council advise Enviroschools to re-apply to the Environmental Grants Round in July 2010 for $10k. If successful with the grant application, the Council will provide enough funding support for a local facilitator. This funding support is contingent on the Wellington Regional Enviroschools Coordinator working with Government, the Council and other potential partners to establish an ongoing, sustainable funding model to support a local facilitator in Wellington. One option is to work with the Enviroschools programme on developing a three-year grant contract applications starting in 2011/12. A Government review of the Enviroschools programme should be available by the end of March 2010, which will help to inform Council decision making on this matter.