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**Project title: Develop a Water Management Plan (action plan to meet water conservation 10 year targets)**

**Strategy area: Environment**

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## **1. The Proposal**

The Greater Wellington Regional Council is currently developing a regional Wellington Water Management Plan (WWMP) in conjunction with the Wellington, Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua City Councils. The WWMP will target a more sustainable use of water by the region and an agreed water use/conservation target will be sought. Each city council will then be expected to determine how it chooses to achieve that target from a range of suggested options.

When this Council has considered the WWMP, the subsequent Wellington City Council water management plan will outline how the Council will meet the agreed water conservation target. It may also contain other additional targets and measures as the Council considers appropriate.

## **2. Strategic Fit**

The project contributes to Environment Priority 6 – Energy / Water efficiency, conservation, security, renewable.

## **3. Relationship to Existing Activities**

Current measures that contribute to Council meeting its strategic priority are limited to the leak detection and voluntary residential metering programmes. Council also contributes to a water conservation awareness programme each summer run by GWRC. These projects are the only remaining from the Council's 1995 Water Conservation Strategies, which will be replaced by the Council water management plan when it is adopted.

## **4. Proposal Costs**

Project costs for 2006/2007 will consist of officer resources and can be met within existing budgets. Any implementation costs cannot be identified at this stage.

## **5. Project Outline**

GWRC provide sufficient water to a 1 in 50 year drought standard. The greater than projected population growth over the last three years combined with the expected growth suggests that they will be unable to supply sufficient water to the standard beyond 2007-2010.

Taking no action will result in a requirement for a new water supply source within a few years. Long term options currently being considered by Greater Wellington would cost between \$42-72 million. However, increasing supply does not promote sustainability and can encourage wastage. Development of the regional WWMP, focusing on water demand, is expected to be completed mid-2006. Officers from Council and Capacity have been contributing to its development.

## **6. Conclusion**

A Council water management plan would be contribute to Council meeting Strategic Priority 6 on energy/water efficiency and conservation. It is also consistent with the regional Wellington Water Management Plan currently under development.

The plan will contribute to Council actively addressing sustainable use of a scarce resource. It may also contribute to deferring the need for a new water source and associated infrastructure.