
Enviroschools - funding request

The Proposal

The Wellington Region Enviroschools has requested an increase in funding support from Council to \$20,000 per year to extend their Enviroschools programme to other schools.

The Council has been contributing \$11,000 per year (\$7k through grants and \$4k through an annual plan line item) to deliver the programme to nine schools. There are a further seven schools wanting to join the Enviroschools programme.

Proposal Costs

Project Component	Operating expenses \$000									
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
<i>Enviroschools request</i>	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
<i>Total</i>	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20

This proposal would be funded by an increase in the general rate.

Discussion

The Enviroschools programme supports schools to develop a holistic approach to education for sustainability. This involves schools working with a facilitator in a long-term relationship as they plan and take action for a sustainable future in their school community. The goal is to build a network of schools committed to environmental learning, action and creating sustainable communities.

The Enviroschools programme began in the early nineties in Waikato region and the Council began its support of the Enviroschools programme in Wellington in 2006 with funding confirmed for three years as part of the 2006 long-term plan and through successful grant applications.

The Enviroschools programme is now a national movement with 600 schools involved around the country – 22 percent of New Zealand schools. Other local authorities in the Wellington region are also part of the Enviroschool programme and contribute funding support.

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: the Ministry of Education, Ministry for the Environment, the Department of Conservation, sustainable businesses, iwi and community/environmental groups. The Regional Council contributes funding for a regional coordinator, Porirua City Council contributes \$9k per year to the programme, and Lower Hutt City Council \$13k per year.

In recent years the Ministry of Education has reviewed and revised the education curriculum, with the new curriculum coming into effect in 2010. The Ministry's *education for sustainability programme* – through which Enviroschools was supported - is no longer an elective programme, but has become part of the core curriculum.

The Ministry of Education is also completing a review of environmental education in schools - including the Enviroschools programme - and their findings are scheduled for release in the coming months. It is

expected that the review findings will help guide the form of environmental education in schools for the future.

The findings from the Ministry of Education review will assist Council officers in determining the role the Council should have in the EnviroSchools programme and the level of support – if any - the Council should be providing to the programme in the future.

Officer recommendation

It is recommended that no additional funding be allocated in the long-term plan for the EnviroSchool programme until the Ministry of Education review of the programme is complete and officers have had the opportunity to review this work and make a determination on what future role the Council should have in the EnviroSchool programme. It is recommended that in the interim that the EnviroSchools programme continue to apply for environmental grants from Council until this work has been completed.

Contact officer:

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