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**REPORT 5**  
*(1215/52/IM)*

## **PORIRUA HARBOUR AND CATCHMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

This paper recommends that the Committee agrees to the release of a Draft Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan for public consultation.

### **2. Executive Summary**

Porirua City Council, in conjunction with Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council officers and other stakeholders has prepared a draft Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan (see appendix 1). This document is the basis for improving the environmental health of the Porirua Harbour. Committee approval is sought to the release of this document for public consultation.

### **3. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree that the Draft Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan (attached as appendix 1 to this report) be released for public consultation.*
- 3. Note that submissions will be considered by a joint hearing panel consisting of one Councillor from each Council and chaired by a representative from Ngati Toa.*
- 4. Agree that Wellington City Council's representative on the hearing panel will be Councillor Best.*
- 5. Note that the implementation of Draft Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan is expected to have negligible, if any, impact on Wellington City Council budgets.*
- 6. Note that should any financial impacts become apparent, these will be included for consideration in the development of the Asset Management Plans and Long-term Plan for 2012/22.*

## 4. Background

Porirua Harbour is currently exposed to a range of man-made impacts that are degrading the environment. Current urbanisation and transport networks are a constant challenge to the use and quality of the harbour waters. Planned and potential future development has potential to hasten this degradation. The development and implementation of a Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy is proposed to restore harbour health.

Porirua City has been developing this “*Harbour and Catchment Management Strategy and Action Plan*” (The Strategy) for the past few years. Porirua harbour requires improvement and as approximately 30 percent of the harbour catchment is within Wellington City Council boundaries (Porirua Stream) Council officers have been working closely with key representatives from Ngati Toa, and officers from Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council in the development of this Strategy and the associated action plan. A community group *The Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust* has also been set up to monitor progress, provide a co-ordinated community voice and facilitate public awareness. Councillor Best is the WCC representative on this Trust.

Porirua City Council, along with Greater Wellington Regional Council and Wellington City Council, expects that this Strategy along with its action plan will be adopted in time to enable possible new programmes and initiatives for 'cleaning up' the harbour and catchment to be considered for inclusion within the respective Councils' Long Term Plans for 2012-2022.

## 5. Discussion

A preliminary draft strategy has been circulated to various stakeholders and community groups and feedback has resulted in this final draft.

The preliminary draft also received unanimous support when presented and discussed at the June GWRC Environment and Well-being Committee.

The three Councils and Ngati Toa will jointly sponsor and promote the draft Strategy for public consultation. PCC will notify the draft Strategy for public feedback and comments during September. Submissions will be considered by a joint hearing panel consisting of one Councillor from each Council and chaired by a representative from Ngati Toa. The strategy and action plan are then expected to be finalised and formally signed-off in December 2011.

Action items in the draft strategy aim to address the key issues facing Porirua Harbour - excessive sedimentation rates, pollutants and ecological degradation –the ‘Big Three’.

The action plan has a number of items that are assigned to WCC. These have been costed and it is expected that they will be funded from existing budgets.

Most of the actions are currently underway and funded. Should any extra funding be identified this would be included in the Asset Management Plans currently being developed and in the 2012/2022 LTP process.

Of the action items assigned to this Council some of the tasks are already in progress. New immediate priorities identified are;

- Review building site earthworks, sediment and erosion controls and guidelines
- Review rural land management and guidelines
- Five-yearly bathymetric survey and analysis
- Review and enhance building controls & guidelines

## **6. Conclusion**

The Draft Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan has been prepared with the input of Council officers. It is to be put out for consultation over the next few months with the expectation that it will be finalised by December 2011.

Contact Officer: *Maria Archer, Manager Infrastructure Planning*

## **Supporting Information**

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*The Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan contributes to Councils aim to protect and enhance Wellington's environment.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact.**

*Most of the actions contained in the strategy are currently underway and funded. No further costs are expected.*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*Ngati Toa are stakeholders and have been involved in the preparation of this strategy.*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*The decision to release the proposed strategy for consultation is not a significant decision. The proposed strategy and action plan is, however, important for the future environmental health of Porirua Harbour. The contribution the Council makes to this process is instrumental in achieving this goal.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*All affected parties have been identified and consulted. More general consultation is proposed.*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*Mana whenua have been involved in the whole process. This has been managed by PCC staff.*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*No legal implications.*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*This report contains measures that are consistent with Wellington City Council policy.*