
REPORT 3
(1215/13/IM)

DRAFT ENGAGEMENT POLICY – APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION

1. Purpose of Report

To enable Community Board members to approve the Boards submission on Wellington City Council Draft Engagement Policy.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Makara/Ohariu Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the submission of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board on the Draft Engagement Policy attached as appendix 1.*

Wellington City Council Draft Engagement Policy Submission from Makara/Ohariu Community Board

Firstly, the Makara/Ohariu Community Board welcomes the development of a formal framework for community engagement.

The Makara/Ohariu Community Board (the Board) considers itself a key stakeholder in the development of Council discussion documents, policies, plans and strategies.

To this end, early engagement and consultation with the Board in shaping policy development options is appropriate. *Refer Draft Engagement Policy. Proposed Commitment to How We Engage: 3. Engage early, and 4. Seek diverse perspectives*

Current engagement by WCC with the Board often does not reflect the intent of the Draft Engagement Policy. The Board notes that it is currently consulted by the WCC only at the same stage as the general public. Several difficulties arise for the Board from this practice:

- WCC policies and plans, in their critical development phase, fail to take into account the perspectives of the rural population, or identify the impact on rural households, land use, or the rural and coastal environment.
- WCC consultation deadlines commonly require a response before a subsequent Board meeting, giving members little opportunity to properly consider key policies, formulate submissions, and discuss and ratify these in a timely manner.
- The practice of delivering to members what are often substantial documents just a few days prior to Board meetings, creates real difficulties for members.

As part of the Draft Engagement Policy supporting Improvement Plan and Engagement Guide for managers and staff, the Board would like to see:

- (i) Early (pre-option) engagement with the Makara/Ohariu Community Board
- (ii) Documents for consultation to be circulated to members well in advance of Board meetings, for example 3- 4 weeks prior.
- (iii) Regular, early notification of policy and strategic work the WCC intends to undertake over the coming 6-12 months so that the Board can better manage its forward business schedule.