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**REPORT 7**  
*(1215/12/IM)*

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## **TAWA DECORATIVE LIGHTS**

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

The purpose of this report is to provide the Tawa Community Board with information regarding the Tawa decorative lights.

### **2. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receives the information.*
- 2. Notes that the Council annually pays for the installation, removal, connection and disconnection of and power supply for the Tawa Christmas lights.*
- 3. Notes that the Tawa Community Board Grants Subcommittee has approved an application from Tawa and Progressive Ratepayers Association for a total of \$1,044 to pay for the maintenance of the Tawa Christmas lights for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.*

### **3. Discussion**

#### **3.1 Christmas Lights**

The Christmas decorative lighting across the city is connected at the end of November or beginning of December (in time for the annual Tawa Christmas parade). The lights are disconnected at the end of January. The Tawa Christmas lighting includes the decorative street lamps and lighting on the Norfolk pine tree outside the Mervyn Kemp Library.

The Tawa lighting was provided in 2006 by the Lions Club of Tawa to celebrate their fortieth anniversary. This was done in association with the Tawa Progressive and Ratepayers Association (TPRA).

The work of installing the lights, connecting and disconnecting them is done by a lighting contractor on behalf of the council. The same contractor sets up all the decorative lighting for Wellington City Council at Christmas.

### **3.2 Funding**

The Council pays for the installation, removal, connection, disconnection and power supply of the Tawa Christmas lights. The annual cost to the Council is approximately \$1,120.

In November 2008, the Tawa Community Board agreed to fund maintenance of the lighting from the Board's discretionary fund up to \$800 for the 2008/09 year.

However generally, the maintenance of the lighting ((i.e. replacement of bulbs) is to be paid for by the TPRA. This was confirmed by the Chief Financial Officer in November 2006. The cost of the maintenance varies depending on the number of bulbs to be replaced – the longer the bulbs are connected, the more bulbs need replacing.

In 2008/09, the Board requested that the lights remain connected until May 2009. However, at the Board's November 2008 meeting, the Board agreed that in the future (2009/10 onwards) the lights would be connected on the first Saturday in December and disconnected at the end of January.

The Board also resolved to approach the Council to “discuss possibility of assuming the responsibility for the annual maintenance of the lights”. It does not appear that this was followed through.

### **3.3 Tawa Community Board Grants Subcommittee Funding**

At the Tawa Community Board Grants Subcommittee meeting on 10 March 2010, the subcommittee approved an application by TPRA to pay for the maintenance of the Christmas lights for 2009/10 and 2010/11 (\$1,044 in total).

## **4. Conclusion**

The Council pays for all aspects of the Tawa Christmas lights apart from the maintenance which the TPRA covers.

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