
REPORT 2
(1215/13/IM)

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER TO PROJECT MILL CREEK COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

1. Purpose of Report

To appoint a member of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board to the Project Mill Creek Community Liaison Group.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Makara/Ohariu Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree to appoint a member of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board as the Board's representative on the Project Mill Creek Community Liaison Group.*

3. Background

In granting resource consent for the Mill Creek Wind Farm project, the Environment Court has required Meridian Energy (the consent holder) to establish a nine-member Community Liaison Group (CLG) and for that Group to hold its first meeting within three months of the date of commencement of the Court's consent.

The function of the CLG will be to provide communication between the community, Meridian Energy, Wellington City Council and Wellington Regional Council on issues arising from the construction of Project Mill Creek (including the construction of the Spicer Forest access track and the widening of Ohariu Valley Road). It does not have a regulatory function.

The Court's consent required that the following groups or organisations be invited to nominate a representative or representatives on the CLG:

- Independent Chair (Convenor)
- Makara/Ohariu Community Board (1 representative)
- Ohariu Valley Residents (2 representatives)
- Makara Valley Residents (2 representatives)
- Wellington City Council (1 representative)
- Wellington Regional Council (1 representative)
- Meridian Energy (1 representative).

The specific roles of the CLG must be determined by the Group and must be to the satisfaction of the Council's Compliance and Monitoring Officer. A document stating its terms of reference must be produced within three months of its first meeting.

The CLG must also provide a quarterly community newsletter highlighting issues relating to Project Mill Creek, until such time as the wind farm is operational and generating electricity into the national grid. The cost of producing the newsletter is to be met by Meridian Energy

4. Discussion

4.1 Selection of Board Member to the CLG

The Chair will call for nominations from members of the Board for the position. Should there be more than one nomination the appointment to the vacancy will be determined using the open voting system (French Presidential) as provided for under Schedule 7, Clause 25 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4.2 French Presidential Voting System

The Local Government Act 2002 provides for the following open voting system to be used for the appointment of elected members to decision making bodies:

- (a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and*
- (b) has the following characteristics:*
 - (i) there is a first round of voting for all candidates; and*
 - (ii) if no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and*
 - (iii) if no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third, and if necessary subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and*
 - (iv) in any round of voting, if 2 or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.*

4.3 Election of Four Community Representatives

Nominations have already been called for from residents of Makara and Ohariu Valley for the four community representatives on the CLG. Nominations for these positions close on Friday 13 April 2012. If more than the required numbers of nominations are received a postal election to fill the vacancies will be held in late April 2012.

4.4 Financial Considerations

The costs of establishing and running the CLG and undertaking the election for the four community representatives on the Group will be met by Meridian Energy.

5. Conclusion

A member of the Makara/Ohariu Community Board needs to be appointed to the Project Mill Creek Community Liaison Group as soon as possible so that the Group can hold its first meeting in compliance with the consent conditions set by the Environment Court.

Contact Officer: *Ross Bly, Special Projects and Electoral Officer*

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This project supports Outcome 7.2.B – More actively engaged: Wellington will operate an open and honest decision making process that generates confidence and trust in the democratic system.

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

The project relates to C534: Elections, Governance and Democratic Process.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

No public consultation is required.

b) Consultation with Maori

No consultation with Maori is required.

6) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report is consistent with existing Wellington City Council policy.