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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy  
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## **Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee – establishment of an appointments subcommittee.**

### **1. Purpose**

To seek approval for the formation of a subcommittee of the Wairarapa and Rural Services Committee to recommend appointments to the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee.

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

The formation of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee was considered and approved by the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee at its meeting on 20 March 2007.

The process to form the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee involved setting up a Steering Group to assist in drafting the Terms of Reference. The Steering Group contains eight landowners, senior staff, and the Chairperson and has met twice in the last month. The Group has agreed upon a number of sections of the Terms of Reference, including a section covering representation.

The Steering Group is due to meet again towards the end of August to finalise the Terms of Reference.

The Wairarapa Hii Country Advisory Committee will not be a committee or subordinate body of Greater Wellington.

#### 4. Representation in the Draft Terms of Reference

The Steering Group proposes in the Draft Terms of Reference that the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee contain the following representatives;

- The Regional Councillor representing the Wairarapa constituency
- One member nominated to represent the interests of the three Wairarapa District Councils
- Up to six members representing the Wairarapa Hill Country on the basis of skills, experience, standing and networks.

The appointment of the six members representing the Wairarapa Hill Country is to be the responsibility of Greater Wellington.

#### 5. Appointment Process

It is anticipated that one of the appointed members to the proposed Wairarapa and Catchment Management Committee will be nominated by the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee. For this to coincide with Council's appointments process following the 2007 local elections the terms of reference, including membership of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee should be confirmed prior to the first meeting of the new Council.

The formation of the subcommittee will allow the above timelines to be met such that the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee can fulfil its obligations with regard to the process for appointing members. The Terms of Reference for the proposed subcommittee are attached as **Attachment One**.

The subcommittee's recommendations on the membership of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee will be put before the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2007.

The complete terms of reference for the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee will be reported to the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee meeting on 4 September 2007.

#### 6. Communications

The appointment of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee is an important one for a number of reasons. The reduction in Councillor representation is an obvious one that will affect the hill country landowners. There are also a number of issues such as climate change, nutrient management and water quality that are important issues to be debated between Greater Wellington and the rural landowners.

It will be necessary to use a variety of printed media to report progress on the formation of the Advisory Committee, and to acknowledge the importance given to it by Greater Wellington.

## **7. Recommendation**

*That the Committee recommends that Council*

- 1. **Receive** the report.*
- 2. **Approve** the establishment of an Appointments subcommittee of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee.*
- 3. **Approve** the Terms of Reference for the Appointments subcommittee.*
- 4. **Notes** that the subcommittee will report with its recommendations to the 27 September 2007 meeting of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.*

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