



*caring about you & your environment*

**Report 01.836**

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Report to Environment Committee  
from Ted Maguire, Council Secretary and Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager

## **Environment Committee Appointees**

### **1. Purpose**

To advise the Committee of the representative of the Ministry of Civil Defence.

To consider whether to appoint additional persons with specialist knowledge to the Environment Committee for Harbours matters and to represent the Upper Hutt Constituency.

## **Comment**

### **1.1 Civil Defence Representative**

Under section 28(1) of the Civil Defence Act 1983, the Environment Committee, in its capacity as a Regional Civil Defence Committee, must include one person appointed by the Director of Civil Defence.

Advice has been received from the Director of Civil Defence appointing Mr Jim Begg as the Ministry's representative on the Environment Committee.

### **1.2 Appointees for Harbours' Matters**

The current terms of reference for this Committee require one additional person when considering harbours matters. (This number was two prior to the previous triennium, comprising one appointee with Wellington Harbour expertise and the other with Porirua Harbour expertise.) These appointments arose from earlier times (prior to 1 November 1995) when there was a mandatory requirement for the Council to have Harbours Committee. At the time the Council's harbours responsibilities only covered the Wellington and Porirua Harbours. Subsequent changes to legislation have extended these responsibilities to include all coastal waters within the Region.

In our view, the continuing need for such appointments is questionable, particularly as the two harbours only cover a very small part of the area for which the Council has responsibility for navigation and safety matters.

### 1.3 Constituency Representation

A general policy of the Council is that committees' memberships include:

*“An appointee from any single member constituencies where there are likely to be matters regularly coming before the committee which impact on that committee, but the local councillor is not a member of the committee”.*

The intent of this is to give effect to the legislative requirement that, so far as possible, Councillors should not be members of regulatory and service delivery committees at the same time. With the Environment Committee, the circumstance arises for the Upper Hutt Constituency as Councillor Kirton is not a member of the Environment Committee. He is a member of the RSW, Landcare and Utility Services Committees. The latter two could well consider matters requiring resource consents.

### 3. Appointment Process

Should it be agreed there is a need for additional appointees, it would be appropriate to invite nominations by way of public advertisement.

### 4. Recommendation

*That the Committee:*

- (a) ***Note** the appointment of Mr Jim Begg to the Environment Committee for Civil Defence matters.*
- (b) ***Invite** nominations of persons with special knowledge or expertise to represent the Upper Hutt Constituency on the Environment Committee.*
- (c) ***Recommend** to the Policy and Finance Committee that no further appointments of additional persons with Harbours' expertise be made to the Committee.*

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