



Report 08.346
Date 16 May 2008
File TP/03/16/05

Committee Regional Land Transport
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Development

Establishment of a Hearings Subcommittee

1. Purpose

To establish a subcommittee of the Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC) to hear and report on submissions lodged on the draft Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan.

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

3.1 Draft Ngauranga – Wellington Airport Corridor Plan Consultation

Under a separate report on today's Committee agenda, the Committee is considering approving the release of a draft Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan for consultation. It is recommended that submissions close on 23 July 2008. All people making submissions have the opportunity to be heard in support of their submissions. It is expected that hearings and deliberations will be held in mid August 2008.

3.2 Regional Land Transport Committee

The statutory function of the RLTC as set out in the Land Transport Act (LTA) 1998 is the preparation of the RLTS for consideration and approval by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Section 178 (3)).

Section 178(4) of the LTA 1998 states that the provisions of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 apply in respect of meetings of regional land transport committees.

In addition, Greater Wellington Regional Council has delegated to the RLTC the following specific responsibilities through its Terms of Reference:

- Hearing any submissions on any draft Regional Land Transport Strategy, and the determination of these submissions in accordance with the consultative procedures required by the Land Transport Act 1998.
- Monitoring the implementation of any Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- Making recommendations to the Council or other relevant organisations on any aspects of land transport of interest to the Council.
- Review and monitor plans to implement the Regional Land Transport Strategy, except the Regional Passenger Transport Plan.

4. Comment

4.1 Need to Establish a Hearings Subcommittee

Hearings subcommittees are an efficient option for hearing and considering submissions where there are high numbers of submitters. About 4,600 submissions were received on Stage 2 of the draft Corridor Plan's development. We are anticipating a similar number to be received on the draft Plan. A hearings subcommittee is therefore appropriate.

4.2 Terms of Reference

The recommended Terms of Reference for the Subcommittee are in **Attachment 1**.

4.2.1 Scope of the Subcommittee's Role

Under delegations the Committee has the power to establish a subcommittee to hear and report on submissions, or hear, evaluate and report on submissions and make recommendations to the Committee.

In addition to the high numbers expected to be received, the submissions on the draft Plan are likely to be complex and detailed in many cases. The subcommittee will have the opportunity to ask questions of those submitters who present their submissions orally and have matters clarified where necessary. The subcommittee will also spend some time discussing the submissions and deliberating on the matters raised. This will give it the ability to consider the submissions in some depth.

To assist the Committee to fully consider the submissions and decide on the appropriate responses the subcommittee should evaluate and report on the submissions and make a recommendation to the Committee, based on its full knowledge of the matters raised. The recommendations will then be considered by the full Committee in October 2008.

4.2.2 Subcommittee Membership

All members of the RLTC are eligible for appointment to a hearings subcommittee. It is consistent with best practice and the requirements of Section 83(1) of the Local Government Act (special consultative procedures) that members hearing submissions must be present for the duration of the hearing of the oral submissions. The only constraint, therefore, is the availability to sit through the anticipated four days of hearings and be available for deliberations.

Given the collaborative nature of the development of the draft Plan by Wellington City Council, Transit NZ and Greater Wellington Regional Council, it is proposed that the Chairperson of Greater Wellington Regional Council (who is also the Chairperson of the RLTC), the Mayor of Wellington City Council and a member of the New Zealand Transport Agency (the Agency that is scheduled to replace Transit NZ from 1 July 2008) be appointed to the subcommittee. It is recommended that an additional two committee members be appointed to the subcommittee (five members in total). Those members of the RLTC not appointed to the subcommittee are welcome to attend the hearings.

As well as subcommittee members a Chair will need to be appointed.

4.2.3 Quorum and Standing Orders

The Greater Wellington Regional Council Standing Orders will apply to the subcommittee. This is provided for in the attached Terms of Reference.

When deciding on a quorum it is important to consider the risks that illness or other unanticipated commitments may prevent a committee member from attending part of the hearings.

In this case four days are likely to be required for the hearings and possibly further time for deliberations. The timeline being followed for the draft Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan review provides limited opportunity to reschedule the hearings. To manage the risks of delay a quorum of two less than the total membership is recommended (a quorum of three).

5. **Communication**

On-going communications about the draft Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan will continue, including communicating the establishment of the subcommittee.

6. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

3. ***Resolves*** to establish a subcommittee to hear, evaluate and report on the submissions to the Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan and make recommendations to the Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference in **Attachment 1**.
4. ***Resolves*** to appoint the following four Committee members to the Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan Hearing Subcommittee:
 - *Mayor Kerry Prendergast (Wellington City Council)*
 - *Mayor Jenny Brash (Porirua City Council)*
 - *Councillor Peter Glensor (Greater Wellington Regional Council)*
 - *Councillor Fran Wilde (Chair, Regional Land Transport Committee)*
5. ***Resolves*** to appoint a nominee of the New Zealand Transport Agency to the Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan Hearing Subcommittee.
6. ***Resolves*** to appoint Councillor Fran Wilde as Chair of the Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Plan Hearing Subcommittee.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Terms of Reference for the Draft Ngauranga to Wellington Airport Corridor Plan Hearing Subcommittee