



Report 08.508
Date 8 July 2008
File WRS/09/01/01

Committee Regional Sustainability Committee
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Wellington Regional Strategy Office Update – Genuine Progress Index (GPI)

1. Purpose

To provide the committee with an update on the GPI project.

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. Progress to date

3.1 GPI Working Group

A GPI working group has been established. The group has officers representing the region's councils. They are generally people also involved with the monitoring of LTCCPs. The GPI working group has met fortnightly since May. It has assessed many GPI frameworks being utilised around the world and has determined that the key indicators for the Wellington region GPI will be based on the Community Outcomes set out on Page 2 of the WRS. These are in **Attachment 1**. This is a departure from the more traditional “4 pillar” approach (social, cultural, environmental and economic) that is used in GPIs. The GPI work will be complementary to existing indicators being utilised by councils throughout the region for their LTCCP monitoring work.

The GPI working group has agreed on a two-phase process for the GPI work:

Phase 1:

- Develop a GPI approach.
- Develop measures/indicators.
- Develop a single account to illustrate how a GPI account might look.
- Test other possible ways to categorise measures (e.g. the more traditional environmental, economic, social, cultural approach).

Phase 2:

- Undertake full cost-accounting.

3.2 Work Plan 2008/09

July- August	Develop draft GPI framework for the Wellington region
August	Update to WRS Committee
25 August	Workshop on Wellington region GPI framework with WRS Committee, Ara Tahi & Regional Sustainability Committee
September	Workshop on Wellington region GPI framework with the WRS Senior Officers Resource Team (SORT)
October	WRS Committee approval of Draft GPI framework
October	Investigation of data collection
Oct - Dec	On-going collection of data
November	Expert panel review of the data and framework
December	WRS Committee sign off Phase I of the GPI project
December	Public release of the Wellington GPI
Jan- April '09	Full cost-accounting of data.

3.3 GPI Forum

The GPI Forum was organised by the WRS office and held on 19 June. It was very successful, with 45 people attending. Representatives came from central and local government. There were also independent researchers and academics. The day involved hearing from those regions already undertaking GPI work or moving towards it, which included Auckland, Waikato, Nelson, Bay of Plenty and Wellington. We also heard from two central government agencies.

Statistics NZ gave a presentation about their framework for monitoring sustainable development and the Ministry of Social Development gave a presentation about how their Social Report is constructed and the way in which it's communicated.

There was a presentation about a national-level GPI that has been developed by Market Economics and the Centre for Ecological Economics at Massey University with funding from FoRST. It is due for release shortly.

Some issues highlighted in the Forum were around definitions of what a GPI is and what it does. There are many different GPI frameworks and approaches so a glossary of terms is to be circulated. Out of the forum came some discussions around opportunities for potential collaboration both within local government and within central government.

The WRS office is organising a further forum for the **4 September** with a meeting of those regions working on GPI to be held on the **31 July**.

A workshop on the development of a regional GPI is to be held with the WRS Committee, Ara Tahi and the Sustainability Committee on the **25 August**.

A report on the GPI project will be presented to the Wellington Region's Chief Executives Group (CEG) on **1 August**.

3.4 Other GPI activities

Two presentations about the development of a Wellington region GPI were given to the ECO (Environmental & Conservation Organisations of NZ) Conference and the NZ Geography Society annual conference.

4. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Wellington Regional Strategy Community Outcomes