

WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

At the Regional Affairs Committee, Sir Kerry Burke proposed a Water Forum to assist with engagement between regional councils and the government on the Sustainable Development Water Programme of Action.

A small sub committee of RAC was nominated to progress these proposals and to identify a process by which Regional Councils could co-ordinate their advocacy on the Programme of Action and their participation in its development.

Environment Waikato's Jenni Vernon volunteered to assist by providing logistical and staff support for the sub committee. This document sets out a terms of reference for the group and a proposed timeline for its activities over the next two months.

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

- To develop a co-ordinated response from Regional Councils to the central government's Water Programme of Action
- To clearly identify issues that face regional authorities when managing water and suggest potential solution forming processes.
- To influence Central Government's decisions of the Water Programme of Action recognising the lead role played by regional councils in developing and implementing policy.
- To ensure the tools developed by government to give effect to the Water Programme of Action are useful to regional councils and address the areas of greatest concern.
- To engage with Local Government New Zealand to provide input on a whole of sector submission.

OBJECTIVES/KEY DELIVERABLES

- A process for Regional Council engagement for the Water Programme of Action is prepared by the end of August 2006.
- That Regional Councils form a collective position on the tools that we require from government to maximise our efficiency in managing water.
- To identify what critical issues that need to be resolved.
- To identify those tasks that could be best addressed by a collaborative approach between councils or between councils and government
- To provide a list of tasks for officers to complete collaboratively in order to support advocacy by Chief Executives and Chairs of Regional Councils on the Water Programme of Action.
- To provide advice on the shape of the Water Forum on the 3rd and 4th of August so that it contributes to achieving these objectives
- To provide timely input into cabinet decision making process

- To identify issues to be examined further in an integrated series of workshops to inform combined advocacy.
- Prepare recommendations to the regional councils' CEOs and Chairs, via the Regional Affairs Committee that reflect the collective agreements about significant water resource issues.

MEMBERSHIP

- Sir Kerry Burke (Chairman, Environment Canterbury)
- Bryan Jenkins (Chief Executive, Environment Canterbury)
- Jenni Vernon (Chairman, Environment Waikato)
- Harry Wilson (Chief Executive, Environment Waikato)
- Ian Buchanan (Chairman, Greater Wellington)
- Garrick Murfitt (Chairman, Horizons)
- Michael McCartney (Chief Executive, Horizons)
- Graeme Martin (Chief Executive, Otago Regional Council)

FREQUENCY AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS

The Water Management Committee will meet at least once (in Hamilton) prior to the August workshop (in Christchurch), and then will reconvene immediately following the August workshop to collate the feedback and develop a strategy to recommend to Regional Affairs Committee.

The need for further meetings will be determined after this strategy is finalised.

CONVENOR

The Convenor of the Water Management Committee is Sir Kerry Burke

SERVICING

Environment Waikato will provide administrative and technical support for the first Water Management Committee meeting in Hamilton and thereafter in partnership with Greater Wellington (for meetings in Wellington).

METHOD OF OPERATION

The Convenor will be responsible for compiling the agenda for each meeting. Agenda items will be sought from members.

REPORTING

Report to Regional Affairs Committee

CRITICAL DATES

Resource Managers Group forum on the Aoraki Decision	15 th June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft Stocktake and gap analysis ○ Draft Broad directions wanted from government 	
Water Management Committee (meets to confirm plans)	26 th June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stocktake and gap analysis ○ Broad directions wanted from government 	
Regional CEOs	27 th June
Leadership forum begins meeting	July?
Local Government Conference (Chairs approve plans)	18 th July 4.45pm

Water Forum in Christchurch	3 rd & 4 th August
Water Management Committee 3 rd Meeting	18 th August 8.30am
Regional Affairs Committee	18 th August
Regional CEOs	16 th October
Water Management Committee 4 th Meeting	27 th October
Regional Affairs Committee	27 th October
1 st MAF/MfE Progress Report to Cabinet	October 2006
Report on Options for local decision making	February 2007
MAF/MfE findings and proposals to Cabinet	March 2007
• Report on potential value and options for NPS for nutrients etc	March 2007
• Identify catchments sensitive or “at risk” from diffuse discharges	March 2007
• Report on scope and draft of NPS and NES for allocation	March 2007
• Policy Options Report	March 2007

RISKS

In order to achieve the objectives, it is important to acknowledge that there are some risks or challenges that may make it difficult to achieve the objectives and deliverables set out above. In particular:

- Not all regional authorities are resourced to participate actively in the kinds of advocacy processes that are likely to be required to achieve the objectives.
- There are differences of necessity and approach between different Councils – these differences must be acknowledged and accepted by all the parties – the ability to take different approaches to suit different communities is a fundamental principle of the Resource Management Act and our model of local government. The process this group develops must not be judgemental or make value assessments of each organisation’s work.