

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Mayor and Councillors

**FROM:** Strategic Development Manager

**REFERENCE:** A503

**DATE:** 11 March 2009

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of Audit Report and Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 for Release for Public Consultation, including the Statement of Proposal for a Holding Company

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## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To request Council to adopt the Auditor's report, Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 (Volumes I and II) and Summary of Information, and approve the documents to be released for public consultation purposes.

## BACKGROUND

During the past year Councillors and staff have been involved in a number of workshops and meetings in an endeavour to formulate the Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019. As part of this work there have been:

- workshops on possible new projects and services
- a review of levels of services
- reviews of all the policies
- new Asset or Activity Management Plans prepared for most of the Council's activities
- a review of all the departmental budgets and the financial implications of any new projects or changes in levels of service.

Councillors have seen an initial version of the Draft Ten Year Plan. This has subsequently been peer reviewed by the Mayor, Councillor King, Councillor Edgar and staff. Audit New Zealand has been through the documents and the Council's financial information, to ensure they are robust and the information contained in them is fit for public consultation. The documents have also been through a "hot review" by a team from the Office of the Auditor General, to ensure consistency in the standard of the audits that have been undertaken by audit teams, of Councils' Draft Ten Year Plans, throughout the country. Audit New Zealand will be providing us with a copy of the Audit opinion, which will be tabled at the meeting.

## **COMMENT/DISCUSSION**

Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002 states that Council must use the special consultative procedure as set out in Section 83 to adopt the Ten Year Plan. This requires Council to:

- publicly advertise where a Statement of Proposal (the Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019) may be inspected
- distribute as widely as possible a Summary of Information contained in the Statement of Proposal
- advise the public what consultation is being undertaken
- invite the public to make a submission on the Statement of Proposal with a closing date not less than one month after the public advertisement
- acknowledge any such submission and allow the submitter to be heard at a public meeting of Council.

Once Council adopts the audited Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 as its Statement of Proposal, the documents will be printed and distributed to Council offices and libraries; put on a compact disc which can be made available to the public; and placed on the Council's website for inspection. A copy of the Summary of Information will be distributed to every household in the Tasman District as a special edition of Newsline. The Summary of Information will outline the key issues in the Statement of Proposal, where and when public consultation will be undertaken, and include information on how to submit on the Plan.

The Council is also consulting on the Holding Company proposal, as part of the Ten Year Plan. Section 56 of the Local Government Act 2002 states that the public must be consulted prior to the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation. The section states that consultation may be undertaken as part of the consultation on the Long Term Council Community Plan (Ten Year Plan). Such a proposal also requires the preparation of a Statement of Proposal. We have included the Statement of Proposal in the Ten Year Plan. A Summary of Information on the Holding Company proposal is contained within the Ten Year Plan Summary document.

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

The decision to adopt the Auditor's Report, the Statement of Proposal and Summary of Information for the Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019, is significant. The process we are undertaking complies with the decision making sections under Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council :

- 1 Receives the Audit New Zealand's report on the Tasman District Council Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 for inclusion in the document
- 2 Approves the Tasman District Council's Statement of Proposal contained in Volumes 1 and 2 of the Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019, for release as the basis of a public consultation process in accordance with Sections 83 and 84 of the Local Government Act 2002
- 3 Approves the Summary document, which contains a summary of the information contained in the Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 for release as the basis of a public consultation process in accordance with Sections 83, 84 and 89 of the Local Government Act 2002, and notes that the Summary will be distributed to every household within the Tasman District as a special edition of Newsline
- 4 Agrees that the Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 be publicly notified on 23 March 2009
- 5 Agrees that the Draft Ten Year Plan 2009-2019 submission period closes at 4.00pm on Monday 27 April 2009.

Report prepared by:

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Strategic Development Manager