

Report No:	RCN12-02-01
File No:	
Date:	23 February 2012
<b>Decision Required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Full Council  
**Meeting Date:** 23 February 2012  
**Report Author:** S Edwards – Strategic Development Manager  
**Subject:** **Receipt of Audit Report and Adoption of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 for Release for Public Consultation**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report requests that Council receives the Audit Opinion, and adopts the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (Volumes I and 2) and Newsline Summary of Information, and approves the documents to be released for public consultation purposes.

The report notes that Council has considered the matters contained in the Draft Long Term Plan at previous meetings and workshops. The Draft Plan reflects the outcomes of the meetings.

The auditor's report will be tabled at the meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That this report is received and the proposed resolutions be adopted.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT Tasman District Council:**

- 1 Notes that the Policy for Payment of Rates for Subsequent Financial Years contained in Volume 2 of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 is different to the version of the Policy adopted by Council on 15 December 2011 due to pages being omitted from the December report and agrees to the full Policy being incorporated into the Draft Long Term Plan.**

- 2 Notes that there the recycling services have been extended in some settlements, and that ratepayers effected by this change will be sent letters advising of the proposed change and that the recycling rate will now apply to their properties;**
- 3 Notes that some of the water charges, particularly the Low Flow Restricted Water Supply charges, will be increasing significantly;**
- 4 Receives the Audit Opinion on the Tasman District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 for inclusion in the document;**
- 5 Approves the Tasman District Council's Statement of Proposal contained in Volumes 1 and 2 of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 incorporating minor amendments tabled at the meeting, for release as the basis of a public consultation process in accordance with Sections 83 and 84 of the Local Government Act 2002;**
- 6 Approves the Summary document incorporating the minor amendments tabled at the meeting, which contains a summary of the information contained in the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022, 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 Newslines;**
- 7 Agrees that the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 be publicly notified on or before 29 February 2012;**
- 8 Agrees that the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 submission period closes at 4.30pm on Tuesday 3 April 2012;**
- 9 Agrees to the Mayor, Councillors King and Edgar and Acting Chief Executive Officer, signing off any further minor editorial amendments prior to the document being finalised for public consultation;**
- 10 Notes that the 17 Settlements document will be prepared and made available during the public consultation period; and**
- 11 Notes that Council staff have updated the Draft Activity Management Plans previously considered by Council to reflect the content of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 and that these updated documents will also be made available during the public consultation period.**

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**Meeting Date:** 23 February 2012  
**Report Author:** Susan Edwards – Strategic Development Manager  
**Subject:** **Receipt of Audit Report and Adoption of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 for Release for Public Consultation**

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To request that Council receives the Audit Opinion, and adopts the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (Volumes I and 2) and Newsline Summary of Information, and approves the documents to be released for public consultation purposes.

## **2. Background and changes from previous versions**

- 2.1 During the past year Councillors and staff have been involved in a number of workshops and meetings in an endeavour to formulate the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022. As part of this work there have been:
- Workshops on possible new projects and services
  - A review of levels of services
  - Reviews of all policies
  - New Activity Management Plans prepared for Council's activities
  - Reviews and numerous amendments to all the departmental budgets and the financial implications of any new projects or changes in levels of service.
- 2.2 Councillors have seen an initial version of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022. Amendments to the initial version have subsequently been reviewed by the Mayor, Councillors King, Glover and Edgar. Audit New Zealand staff have been through the documents and the Council's financial information to ensure they are robust and the information contained in them is fit for consulting the public. Some amendments have been made, particularly to the Lee Valley Dam section and Financial Strategy, as a result of the auditors' comments. 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 being undertaken of councils throughout the country. Audit New

Zealand will be providing us with a copy of the Audit Opinion, which will be tabled at the meeting.

- 2.3 On 15 December 2011 Council approved a number of policies to go into the Draft Long Term Plan. Unfortunately only the first page of the Policy for Payment of Rates for Subsequent Financial Years was contained in the report. Councillors should note that the full policy is now in Volume 2 of the Draft Plan, which differs from what Council approved in December.
- 2.4 Other changes include extension of the areas that will receive recycling services and, therefore, those areas will be charged the refuse recycling rate, and increases to some water charges, particularly the low flow restricted supplies which will be increasing significantly.
- 2.5 The latest version of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (Volumes 1 and 2) and the Newline Summary document have been distributed to Councillors under separate cover. The Audit Opinion will be tabled at the meeting. A 17 Settlements document and the Draft Activity Management Plans will also be produced as supplementary information to the Draft Long Term Plan and made available when the Draft Plan is put out for public consultation.

### **3. Matters to be Considered**

- 3.1 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 Draft Long Term Plan. This requires Council to:
  - Publicly advertise where a Statement of Proposal (the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022) 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; and
  - Acknowledge any such submission and allow the submitter to be heard at a public meeting of Council.
- 3.2 Once Council adopts the audited Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 as its Statement of Proposal, the documents will be printed and distributed to Council offices and libraries, put on a compact disc 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 Newline. Both the Summary of Information and the Draft Long Term Plan

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 Draft Plan.

- 3.3 There will be a final proof of the documents prior to printing. This report includes a recommendation that the Mayor, Councillors King and Edgar, and the Acting Chief Executive Officer be delegated authority to sign off any further minor editorial amendments.

#### **4. Financial/Budgetary Considerations**

- 4.1 The Draft Long Term Plan contains the proposed budgets for the coming 10 years and the Annual Plan for the 2012/2013 financial year. The Long Term Plan process needs to be completed and the document finalised by 30 June 2012 in order for Council to strike new rates for the 2012/2013 year and to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 4.2 The costs of publicly notifying the Draft Long Term Plan and of printing the documents are budgeted in the current financial year's budgets.

#### **5. Options**

- 5.1 The options for Council consideration are:
- a. Adopt the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (Volumes 1 and 2) and the Summary of Information as distributed under separate cover with this agenda with or without any amendments.
  - b. Do not adopt the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (Volumes 1 and 2) and the Summary of Information as distributed under separate cover with this agenda and ask staff to make amendments to the documents prior to reconsideration by Council.

#### **6. Pros and Cons of Options**

##### **Adopt the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (Volumes 1 and 2) and the Summary of Information with or without any amendments**

- 6.1 Under this option Council would commence public consultation on the Draft Long Term Plan at the end of February. This would enable Council to meet the statutory timeframes in the Local Government Act for completing the final Plan by 30 June 2012, and enable Council to strike new rates for the 2012/2013 year. Council would be able to give a slightly longer period for

public consultation than the minimum required by the Act and have enough time to properly consider submissions on the Draft Plan prior to finalising the document. Any minor amendments to the Draft Plan can be made at the meeting. Major amendments should not be needed to the Draft Plan, as Council has considered the matters contained in the document at previous meetings and in workshops. If needed major changes could be made prior to finalising the Plan in June.

6.2 The disadvantage with this option is that if Councillors seek any major amendments to the Draft Plan they cannot be made prior to commencing public consultation at the end of February.

6.3 Staff recommend this option.

**Do not adopt the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022 (Volumes 1 and 2) and the Summary of Information and ask staff to make amendments to the documents prior to reconsideration by Council.**

6.4 Under this option Council would not be able to commence public consultation on the Draft Long Term Plan at the end of February. This would mean that Council would be unlikely to meet the statutory timeframes in the Local Government Act for completing the final Plan by 30 June, and therefore, Council would not be able to strike new rates for the start of the 2012/2013 year.

6.5 The advantage of this option would be that it would enable Council to make any major changes to the document, if needed.

6.6 Staff do not recommend this option.

## **7. Significance**

7.1 The decision to adopt the Audit Opinion, the Statement of Proposal and Summary of Information for the Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022, is significant. The process we are undertaking complies with the decision making sections under Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 That this report is received and the proposed resolutions be adopted.

## 9. Timeline/Next Steps

- 9.1 The Draft Long Term Plan and Summary document will be publicly notified on or before 29 February 2012. Public consultation sessions will be held around the District between 6 March and 22 March. Submissions will close on 3 April. Hearings of submissions will occur between 23 April and 4 May. Council will consider the submissions and make decisions on what changes to make to the Draft Plan prior to finalising the Long Term Plan in mid-June.

## 10. Draft Resolution

### **THAT Tasman District Council:**

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Report Prepared by:

Susan Edwards  
Strategic Development Manager