

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Chairman & Members, Corporate Services Committee

**FROM:** David Ward

**DATE:** 15 July 2005

**SUBJECT:** Long Term Council Community Plan Development Process

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## PURPOSE

This report has been prepared to provide Councillors with details of the process that staff will be following in the preparation of the 2006 LTCCP. The report identifies the statutory background, refers to the process followed so far and then focuses on the consultation process specific to community outcomes that will be conducted in July and August 2005. The report concludes by detailing the role of Council towards the end of the 2005 calendar year in a workshop environment for the purposes of evaluating responses to the community outcomes and asset management plan reviews and to consider prioritising projects and activities.

## BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2002 requires Council to carry out a process that will enable the community to identify its desired outcomes for the future of the District in relation to environmental, social, economic and cultural wellbeing. Community outcomes describe residents and ratepayers visions for their future. They describe the sort of place the community would like Tasman District to be in the future.

The process will result in the identification of a very wide range of community outcomes – from housing and education through to the traditional Council activities such as roading, maintenance of public infrastructure, parks, reserves and managing the environment. Contributions from a variety of central and local government agencies, non government organisations, communities and individuals will be required to further the outcomes. Council will contribute in a variety of capacities such as service provider, service purchaser and regulator, educator, advocate and partner.

The community outcomes will serve as a road map for all stakeholders. They will help the various stakeholders in our community to work together and source funding for their activities in an integrated and co-ordinated way. The outcomes will help or community to work together to achieve its common vision.

## **PROCESS SO FAR**

In April 2004, the draft Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) for the period 2004 – 2014 proposed interim community outcomes. In accordance with the transitional provisions of the LGA 2002, these interim community outcomes were developed from information already in Council's possession.

The eight interim outcomes are:

- Our vibrant community is safe, well, enjoys an excellent quality of life and supports those with special needs.
- Our diverse community enjoys access to a range of spiritual, cultural, social, education and recreational services
- Our community understands regional history, heritage and culture
- Our participatory community contributes to District decision making and development
- Our growing and sustainable economy provides opportunities for us all.
- Our unique and special natural environment is bountiful, healthy, clean and protected
- Our built urban and rural environments are functional, pleasant, safe and sustainably managed.
- Our transport and essential services are sufficient, efficient and sustainably managed.

The public submissions on the draft LTCCP 2004 – 2014 did not comment negatively on the interim community outcomes set out in the Plan. Rather, submitters suggested additions to the outcomes and said that the District needed to focus on developing outcomes and priorities for action at the level of ward or areas within the District. These could then be incorporated into ward or area and activity plans. The view of submitters was that LTCCP community outcomes and district and local development planning processes must meet and integrate.

From November 2004 to February 2005, Council facilitated the Tasman Rural Futures Community Engagement Process. The purpose of this consultation process was to hear from the rural communities in the District about the desired futures for rural areas, rural development issues and how land use change and development should be managed in rural areas.

In November 2004, Council conducted the Tasman Futures/Community Outcomes Telephone Survey. One of the purposes of the telephone survey was to serve as a first step to and then inform and guide a broader community outcomes consultation process. Councillors have received copies of the booklet detailing the outcomes to this survey.

## **TASMAN FUTURES CONSULTATION PROCESS**

In July and August 2005, Council is facilitating a Tasman Futures Consultation Process. Similar to the telephone survey, the purpose of the process is to hear from district communities:

- the kind of place they would like their district/ward/area to be in the future
- the priority actions that they believe need to be taken to achieve this

In addition, this process will help develop outcomes that are community-focused and prioritised.

In early August 2005, a special edition of Newslines – The Mag will be forwarded to all residents. This edition will background the LTCCP process and contain a questionnaire that we will solicit responses to.

Concurrent to that process, Council will be undertaking a series of focus group workshops and ward/community workshops focusing on the community outcomes and the linkages between these, the “four wellbeings” and Council’s activity management plans. It is a statutory requirement that this consultation process be undertaken and the outcomes to the consultation be used as evidence of Council’s response to revised asset management plans and ultimately our 2006 – 2016 LTCCP.

These workshops will be conducted by staff with requested political support and will generally be for a two to three hour period.

In April 2005, Council, in conjunction with Nelson City Council and Department of Internal Affairs conducted a Focus Group workshop with the District’s art and cultural sector. Copies of the minutes of that workshop are available should Councillors wish to view these.

During the next week, sector group meetings will be held with the Positive Ageing Forum and Talking Heads. Staff involved in the LTCCP preparation process will be including feedback received from all submission processes over the past 12 months, including draft annual plan, rural futures etc in its feedback to Council in December 2005.

Attached to the agenda for today’s meeting is a copy of a draft booklet entitled “Tasman Futures Discussion Paper”. This booklet will be made available to all attendees at the Focus Group Workshops and will be available for members of the public at all Council service centres and libraries.

## **NEXT STEPS**

From September to November 2005, Council staff will analyse and assess the results of the Tasman Futures Consultation Process. The results will then be integrated with those of other relevant Council policy and planning processes. This will include a prioritising of projects and activities together with their anticipated funding sources.

In early December 2005, the results of the Tasman Futures Consultation Process will be reported back to Council. A series of workshops will then follow in which Council will consider the outcomes and the priorities for incorporation in our 2006 – 2016 LTCCP.

### **PROCESS OUTCOMES**

The results of the Tasman Futures Consultation Process will develop District, ward and area level community outcomes and priorities for action. This will help build District vision and strategic direction. The results will provide a “high level” framework for the various and more detailed Council planning, policy and review processes such as the urban and rural planning processes and activity management plans, some of which are mentioned above. The results will be reported on in the draft LTCCP 2006 – 2016 which will be released for public comment in early April 2006.

Staff are currently engaged in the response to a self assessment review of our processes being conducted by the Office of the Auditor General. A report on our response will be released to Council in November 2005 and will contain a satisfaction rating on the systems and processes that Council has in place and proposes to follow for the compilation of the 2006 – 2016 LTCCP. It is a statutory requirement that both the compilation process and the final adoption process for the LTCCP document is audited and an audit certificate will be contained within both the discussion document and the final document.

David Ward  
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