

## **Report 99.319**

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Report to the Utility Services Committee  
Lloyd Bezett, Policy Analyst, Council Secretariat

### **Appointment of Chief Engineer**

#### **1. Purpose**

To appoint a Chief Engineer in terms of the Wellington Regional Water Board Act 1972 (WRWB Act) for the purpose of carrying out functions under that Act and the Wellington Regional Water Board Bylaws (WRWB Bylaws).

#### **2. Background**

In 1994 the Council introduced the Forest, Parks and Recreation Bylaws to provide a means of controlling public access to Council land. It was envisaged that catchment areas would be opened to the public shortly and those Bylaws would prevail – the WRWB Bylaws only being retained to prevent access to a small area surrounding water intakes. With the catchment area remaining closed and the recent increase in unauthorised access incidents, it is advisable that proper control of the catchments be exercised.

Councillors will be aware that the Landcare Committee, at its meeting on 20 April, approved the appointment of Honorary Rangers to assist the investigation of offences within catchment areas in terms of the WRWB Bylaws. At that time it was also identified that it is unclear from current delegations which officer is the Chief Engineer.

The Chief Engineer has responsibility for granting a number of permissions under the WRWB Bylaws, for bores, works in watercourses and access to catchments. As bores and works in watercourses now fall within the Resource Management Act, few of the original powers remain relevant. However, the granting of access to water catchments remains a function of the Chief Engineer under the WRWB Bylaws and failure to clarify this issue may hamper successful prosecutions for breaches of those Bylaws.

**3. Comment**

The Chief Engineer is appointed pursuant to section 22 of the WRWB Act; subsection 3 of which states that the person appointed must be a registered engineer. It has been determined that the most appropriate officer to fulfil this function is the Group Manager Operations, Dan Roberts.

**4. Recommendation**

*That the Committee appoint the Group Manager, Operations, to be Chief Engineer in terms of the Wellington Regional Water Board 1972 and the Wellington Regional Water Board Bylaws 1976.*

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