



**Report**                    **05.642**  
**Date**                     17 November 2005  
**File**                      ENV/32/1/6

**Committee**            **Environment**  
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## **Mangatarere Stream plan change hearing committee**

### **1. Purpose**

To approve the appointment of a hearing committee to hear Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan (minimum flows and water allocation in the Mangatarere Stream).

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Background**

Proposed Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan sets minimum flows and water allocation limits in the Mangatarere Stream. It was publicly notified on 24 April 2004 and public submissions closed on 28 May 2004. A summary of submissions was then publicly notified and further submissions closed on 9 July 2004.

There are 5 submitters. A pre-hearing meeting with submitters was held on 9 November 2004. Further flow data in the Mangatarere Stream catchment was collected over the following summer, as agreed at the pre-hearing meeting. There was a further pre-hearing meeting on 7 June 2005.

Staff are currently preparing reports that make recommendations on the submissions. These reports will be sent to submitters prior to Christmas. Submitters then have the opportunity to be heard by a hearing committee. The task of a hearing committee is to hear submissions and make recommendations on them to the Council. A hearing in February 2006 would be appropriate.

#### **4. Hearing committee appointment**

The appointment of hearing committees for regional plan changes is delegated to the Environment Committee and cannot be sub-delegated. Appointing the Hearing Committee now would allow the hearing to proceed in February, prior to the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

A hearing committee of Cr Shields (as Chairperson) and Cr Long is recommended.

#### **5. Communication**

The staff reports, as well as the hearing date, hearing committee and other relevant information will be sent to submitters in a letter prior to Christmas. No other communication is necessary.

#### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. Approves the appointment of Cr Shields (as Chairperson) and Cr Long to the Hearing Committee for Plan Change 2 to the Regional Freshwater Plan (minimum flows and allocation limits in the Mangatarere Stream).*

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