



Report 06.504
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
Author Rex Kirton – Acting Chairperson, Dangerous Dams Subcommittee

Recommended Changes to Dangerous Dam Policy

1. Purpose

To provide the Council with recommended changes to the Dangerous Dams Policy as a result of oral and written submissions received.

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

Under the provisions of the Building Act 2004 (the Act) Greater Wellington must adopt a policy on Dangerous Dams. The policy must state:

- the approach the regional authority will take in performing its functions;
- the regional authority's priorities in performing those functions; and
- how the policy will apply to heritage dams.

Council approved a proposed Dangerous Dam Policy for public consultation in accordance with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 at its meeting on 20 July 2006. The proposed policy was publicly notified on 22 July 2006 and copies of the policy were sent to individual dam owners.

In formulating the proposed Dangerous Dam policy, Regional Councils across the country worked collectively to develop a template policy. Additionally, representatives of the Councils' meet with a number of national organisations to consult on the policy. Council representatives met with the Historic Places Trust, Federated Farmers, VegFed and New Zealand Society on Large Dams.

4. **Comment**

Greater Wellington received five submissions on the Proposed Dangerous Dam Policy. A hearing was held on 8 September 2006. Nancy McIntosh-Ward from the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary made the only oral submission to the Dangerous Dam Subcommittee.

The submissions made, and recommended policy changes do not significantly change the policy, but rather seek to clarify and further define the policy.

Attachment 1 sets out the decisions requested in each submission, the recommended policy change, and the reasons for the decision.

Attachment 2 is a full copy of the Dangerous Dam Policy with the changes marked.

5. **Communication**

Once Council has approved the final Dangerous Dam Policy, letters will be sent to the submitters outlining the reasons for changes to the policy. All dam owners will be provided with a copy of the final policy once approved.

Under the Building Act 2004, a copy of the Dangerous Dam Policy is required to be sent to the Chief Executive of the Department of Building and Housing once adopted.

6. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

1. **Receive** the report;
2. **Note** the content of the report; and
3. **Adopt** the Dangerous Dam Policy including the changes outlined in Appendix One.

Report prepared by:

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Dangerous Dams
Subcommittee

Attachment 1: Recommended Changes to the Dangerous Dam Policy

Attachment 2: Dangerous Dams Policy 2006 (including changes)