



Submission on proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region, 2009

Pursuant to Clause 6 of the first Schedule and Section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Submission can be:

Posted to: Freepost 118112
Proposed Regional Policy Statement
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
Wellington 6142

Delivered to: Ground Floor Reception, 142 Wakefield Street, Wellington

Faxed to: 04 385 6960

E-mailed to: rps@gw.govt.nz

Submissions need to be received by 25 May 2009 at 4pm

Your name and contact details:

Full name: WELLINGTON RESIDENTS COALITION

Full postal address: c/- 283 H. Rintoul St
Wellington South 6023

Telephone no.: Work: Home: 04 3892 660
Facsimile:

Contact person: Ian Drysdale

Address and telephone no. as above
(if different from above)

Submission

1. The specific parts of the proposed Regional Policy Statement that my submission relates to are as follows:

Water Supply & Environmental Care
please see attached submission

(Clearly indicate which parts of the document you support or oppose, or wish to have amendments made to. Please continue on separate sheet(s), if necessary)

2. My submission is that:

(State the reasons for your submission. Please continue on separate sheet(s), if necessary)

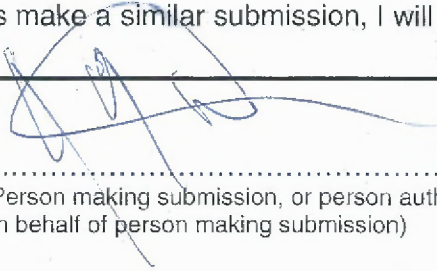
I wish Greater Wellington to make the following decision:

Not to support the wholesale provision
of water meters as urged by some

(Give precise details. Please continue on separate sheet(s), if necessary)

Please tick applicable box(es)

- ☒ I do wish to be heard in support of my submission (This means that you wish to speak at the hearing)
- ☐ I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission (This means you have elected not to speak at the hearing)
- ☐ If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing

Signature: 
(Person making submission, or person authorised to sign
on behalf of person making submission)

Date: 20 April 2009

Please note that under the Resource Management Act all submissions must be made available for public inspection.

Wellington Residents Coalition

Submission on the Greater Wellington Regional Council proposed "Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington region, 2009"

Water Supply & Environmental Care

Congratulations on the very well thought out proposal for the care, collection, delivery and consideration of associated environmental factors in your plan.

It is particularly heartening that there is no mention of having water metering of ordinary residential properties, although chairperson Fran Wild is in favour of this.

Although there have been arguments for the wholesale imposition of water meters to all users, some of these have been based on false data. Supporters of such a scheme, also play down the fact that such wholesale metering of the water supply will commodify it, and render our present public utility ripe for private purchase. Present administrations favour Council Controlled Organisations to retain NZ ownership. However, in the current economic climate, where NZ is heavily indebted to overseas interests, and given the terms of international trade treaties that NZ avidly seeks, there will be little or no protection against sale to overseas interests. These will then have a monopoly, with virtually no restraint on what is charged for water. (cf. "cost of electric power to domestic consumers") A recent O.E.C.D. report urges the NZ government to privatise public utilities to pay debt and as NZ plunges deeper into recession, this call will be hard to resist.

Given that there is an increasing world shortage of fresh water, it will become a very commercially valuable commodity, controlled globally by a few for maximum profit, with little regard to the needs of the local populace. Auckland is already in this very vulnerable situation.

Lower income families, if they are to survive, will need increasing subsidisation from the rate payer or the tax payer to pay for water.

The present system of retaining metering for industrial, commercial and large residential users only, should be retained, and sensible measures introduced to reduce wasteful consumption.