

COUNCIL POLICY

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MEETING:	Council
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1 BACKGROUND

Council is required to have a policy on significance under section 90 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). The policy, and any amendment to it, must be made using the special consultative procedure in the Act.

2 POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are:

- To outline the process and considerations required to determine whether an issue, proposal, decision or other matter is significant
- To support Council decision making by ensuring that sufficient information is provided to enable significance to be assessed
- To help Council determine the appropriate level of Community engagement on any issue, proposal, decision or other matter.

3 PRINCIPLES

The degree of significance of a given issue, proposal, decision or other matter will determine whether, and to what extent Council will observe the provisions of the Act relating to decision making and consultation, and other applicable Council policy, such as the consultation policy. It is therefore important that Council has sufficient information on which to base an assessment of significance.

4 DEFINITIONS

Significance, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter that concerns or is before a local authority, means the degree of importance of the issue, proposal, decision, or matter, as assessed by the local authority, in terms of its likely impact on, and likely consequences for:

- a) the current and future social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the district or region;
- b) any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by, or interested in, the issue, proposal, decision, or matter;
- c) the capacity of the local authority to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

Significant, in relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision, or other matter has a high degree of significance.

Special consultative procedure means the procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Strategic asset, in relation to the assets held by a local authority, means an asset or group of assets that the local authority needs to retain if the local authority is to maintain the local authority's capacity to achieve or promote any outcome that the local authority determines to be important to the current or future well-being of the community, and includes:

- a) any asset or group of assets listed in accordance with section 90(2) by the local authority; and
- b) any land or building owned by the local authority and required to maintain the local authority's capacity to provide affordable housing as part of its social policy; and
- c) any equity securities held by the local authority in—
 - (i) a port company within the meaning of the Port Companies Act 1988;
 - (ii) an airport company within the meaning of the Airport Authorities Act 1966.

5 POLICY STATEMENT

5.1 General approach

The general approach that Council will use to determine the significance of any issue, proposal, decision or other matter is to assess the likely impact and consequences it will have on:

- a) The current and future social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Community; and
- b) Any persons who are likely to be particularly affected by or interested in the matter; and
- c) The associated financial and other costs and implications of the matter, having regard to Council's capacity to perform its role.

5.2 Thresholds and criteria

Any issue, proposal, decision or other matter is likely to be significant if it satisfies one or more of the following thresholds or criteria:

Financial:-

- a) A transfer of ownership or control, or the construction, replacement or abandonment of a strategic asset as defined by the Act or listed in this policy
- b) The sale of Council's shareholding in any council-controlled trading organisation or council-controlled organisation
- c) A significant effect on the costs to Council of carrying out any activity identified in the Long Term Plan
- d) Unbudgeted expenditure which would exceed 5 percent of the total annual operational budget for that year
- e) Capital expenditure exceeding either:-
 - i) 2.5 percent of the total value of Council's fixed assets; or
 - ii) Where spent on a strategic asset, 25 percent of the gross value of that asset.

Other:-

- f) All or a relatively large proportion of the Community will be substantively affected
- g) A broad range of people and/or groups who reflect the make-up of the Community will be substantively affected
- h) A decision on the issue, proposal or other matter does not flow logically and consequentially from a significant decision already made or from a decision in the Long Term Plan or the Annual Plan
- i) The decision will have a significant effect on Council's capacity to carry out any activity identified in the Long Term Plan

Council will also consider the degree to which a decision, once made, would be difficult to reverse.

Notwithstanding the above thresholds and criteria, Council may assess any issue, proposal, decision or other matter as significant, which is expected to generate strong Community sentiment.

5.3 Procedures

Reports to Council that require consideration of an issue, proposal, decision or other matter in order to decide a course of action, will include a statement indicating that the issue of significance has been considered and a recommended assessment of likely significance.

Where the recommendation is that the issue, proposal, decision or other matter is likely to be significant, the report will also include a statement outlining the appropriate adherence to the parts of the Act relating to decision making and consultation, and to other applicable Council policy.

Irrespective of any assessment of significance, Council may choose to consult on any issue, proposal, decision or other matter which it considers of sufficient importance to the Kawerau Community to warrant such an approach.

5.4 Strategic assets

For the purposes of section 90(2) of the Act, Council considers the following assets to be strategic assets:

- Roading network as a whole (including stormwater reticulation system)
- Water reticulation system as a whole
- Wastewater reticulation system as a whole
- Kawerau's important reserves (including buildings), as listed in the Schedule
- The Maurie Kjar Memorial Swimming Pool Complex
- Kawerau Cemetery (including buildings)
- Kawerau District Library/Sir James Fletcher Kawerau Museum
- Kawerau's public halls (Town Hall, Concert Chambers and Ron Hardie Recreation Centre)
- Council's District Office and Works Depot
- The transfer station and recycling centre

6 RELEVANT DELEGATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer or his/her nominee has delegated authority for the implementation of this policy.

7 REFERENCES AND RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2002
Council's Policy on Consultation

Schedule – Kawerau’s Important Reserves

There are eleven reserves in Kawerau which, because of their size, use, or importance to the Community are regarded as ‘significant’ recreation reserves. They are:

- . Boyce Park
- . Firmin Field
- . Lyn Hartley Reserve
- . Monika Lanham Reserve
- . Keith McKenzie Park
- . Pat Baker Reserve
- . Prideaux Park (including Ruruanga Reserve)
- . Roy Weston Walk
- . Stoneham Park
- . Stoneham Walk
- . Tarawera Park
- . Waterhouse Reserve
- . Waterwheel Park