



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Convenor, Ministerial Group on Climate Change

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| Minister of State Services | Secretary, POL |

Climate Change III: The Role of Local Government

On 29 April 2002, following reference from the Cabinet Policy Committee (POL), Cabinet:

The role of local government in climate change

- 1 **noted** that local authorities have an important role in contributing to the successful implementation of climate change policy;

The Resource Management Act

- 2 **noted** the current lack of clarity regarding the use of the Resource Management Act (RMA) in managing greenhouse gas emissions at a local level;
- 3 **noted** that urban form, which contributes to the future growth of transport emissions in particular, is unlikely to be addressed through national climate change policy and should continue to be considered by RMA tools;
- 4 **noted** that officials are implementing a National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy work programme on urban form which will consider the role of the RMA;

- 5 **noted** that officials are implementing a work programme aimed at ensuring that energy efficiency and renewables are effectively addressed in RMA processes and documents;
- 6 **agreed** that there should be amendments to the RMA to remove the ability of councils to control activities, via resource consents or rules in plans, for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their effects on climate change;
- 7 **noted** that, notwithstanding the proposed amendment discussed above in paragraph 6, the appropriateness of land uses and developments, given the potential effects of climate change, and local amenity and health effects of 'greenhouse gas' emissions, will continue to be addressed using RMA tools;
- 8 **agreed** that consultation should include responses to the Government's proposal to amend the RMA once the Kyoto Protocol is in force, and New Zealand has ratified it;
- 9 **agreed** that consultation should also include a question about whether or not Government should develop interim national guidelines to assist local government to control greenhouse gas emissions. These guidelines would be available to councils seeking guidance until the RMA has been amended;
- 10 **directed** officials to report back to POL by 31 July 2002 on;
 - 10.1 options for the amendment of the RMA;
 - 10.2 the timing of the amendments to the RMA;
 - 10.3 whether or not there should be guidelines for controlling greenhouse gas emissions, and the possible scope of these guidelines;
 - 10.4 the future work programme on the RMA and climate change, and a budget for this programme;

A New Zealand Cities for Climate Protection programme

- 11 **noted** that an adaptation of the international Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) programme concept could be used as a framework in New Zealand to forge an active partnership between local and central government climate change addressing operational policy and implementation issues;
- 12 **directed** officials to work with Local Government New Zealand, the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and other potential service providers to develop and introduce a CCP type programme adapted to New Zealand conditions;
- 13 **noted** that a steering group would oversee the application of the New Zealand CCP partnership, and consist of local and central government representatives (including EECA and Local Government New Zealand) and a service provider representative from ICLEI;
- 14 **noted** that CCP will be organised to facilitate the delivery of climate change components of key Government strategies, including the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, the New Zealand Waste Strategy and the anticipated transport strategy;

- 15 **noted** that that the cost of a New Zealand Cities for Climate Protection is estimated at through Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- 16 **noted** that funding of the costs outlined in paragraph 15 above was agreed by joint Ministers as part of the 2002 Budget process;
- 17 **directed** officials to report to POL with a final proposal on a New Zealand Cities for Climate Protection programme, including programme costings, by 31 July 2002;

Climate change impacts and adaptation

- 18 **noted** that the role and opportunities for local government to respond to possible effects of climate change are discussed in a separate Cabinet minute on impacts and adaptation [CAB Min (02) 13/12].

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (02) 187; POL Min (02) 9/1-6