

OPEN BRIEFING 6 APRIL 2022 – 4.00PM



REMISSION OF RATES ON MĀORI LAND POLICY

ATTENDEES

Elected Members: Mayor Barry, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Edwards, Cr Dyer, Cr Sutton, Cr Hislop, Cr Brown, Cr Shaw, Cr Mitchell and Cr Rasheed

Staff: Ms J Miller, Chief Executive, Ms H Oram, Director Environment and Sustainability, Mr K Puketapu-Dentice, Director Economy and Development, Mr J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Planning, Mr M Jennings, Kaitatari Tumuaki Māori, Ms C Ellis, Head of CE Office, Ms P Rotherham, Head of Planning, Mr D Koenders, Manager Financial Strategy and Planning, Ms K Waldegrave, Acting Head of Strategy and Planning, Ms O Miller, Policy Advisor, Ms A Gordon, Senior Policy Advisor, Ms Alicia Andrews, Finance Transaction Services Manager, Ms K Stannard, Head of Democratic Services and Ms T Lealofi, Democracy Advisor

APOLOGIES

Elected Member apology: Cr Barratt

ABSENCE

Elected Members: Cr Milne, Cr Briggs

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE BRIEFING

The purpose of the briefing was to provide an overview on the Remission of Rates on Māori Land Policy.

Slide 1 - **Changes to the rating of Māori land:** The Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 makes additional requirements of Council on Māori freehold land, including:

- Making categories of Māori land non-rateable;
- Introducing the ability to provide rates remissions for Māori land under development and requiring Council to write-off rates debt on Māori land that is considered unrecoverable; and
- Changes also require certain financial policies to align with the principles of Te Ture Whenua

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- Slide 2 – **Major changes to the rating of Māori land:** An explanation of the major changes and the impact on Council and Lower Hutt.
- Slide 3 – **Properties changes to non-rateable:**
- Slide 4 – **Major changes to the rating of Māori land:** An explanation of the major changes and the impact on Council and Lower Hutt.
- Slide 5 – **Key aspects of proposed policy:** Alignment with Greater Wellington Regional Council's policy. Understanding how to implement the principles of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. Outlined the engagement process with mana whenua partners and Māori freehold landowners to date. Feedback has been positive.
- Slide 6 – **Next steps:** Overview of the key milestone dates for the policy.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION POINTS ON COUNCIL'S DRAFT SUBMISSION

- Officers confirmed the following:
 - Council was required to amend the policy due to legislative changes.
 - There were no significant historic rates arrears on the land identified as part of the review.
 - The proposed annual rates remission was approximately \$3,000 on the two parcels of land identified to date as part of the review. Additional landowners may approach Council to apply for a rates remission under the policy.
 - The definition of used/unused land.

NEXT STEPS

- The Policy Finance and Strategy Committee meeting in April 2022 will consider the draft policy.

Briefing materials:

Attachment 1 – Māori Freehold Land Rates Remission Policy - Presentation

The briefing closed at 4.20pm