

STAFF REPORT

TO: Councillors
FROM: Chief Executive
REFERENCE:
DATE: 11 April 2006
SUBJECT: RMA Accreditation

PURPOSE

To advise Council of a Golden Bay Community Board request and to determine Council's response.

BACKGROUND

The Golden Bay Community Board has again formally requested that Council consider sponsoring RMA accreditation and training for interested Community Board members. The cost of these accreditation training programmes is \$198.00 per person.

Currently we have 10 Councillors with RMA accreditation. These Councillors form a great majority of our Hearing Committees.

COMMENTS

There is nothing to legally prevent Council using Community Board members on a Hearing Panel if that is Council's wish. It could be argued that the addition of Community Board members on Hearing Panels would be a good training and development experience for them and that they may well be able to bring additional local area perspectives to the Hearings' table. The cost of this training could be met from our Elected Members Training budget.

Council has previously preferred to retain Hearing Committee membership exclusively to Councillor members and this was seen as providing important background experience for a wide number of Councillors who are then asked to sit on Plan/Policy development committees ie development of Plan rules.

CONCLUSION

Council guidance is sought on this matter.

R G Dickinson

Chief Executive

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Full Council/Reports/2006/RCN060420 Report RMA Accreditation.doc>