

12 April 2010

Mr. M Ingle
Chairman
WEL Energy Trust
P O Box 1336
Hamilton 3240

Dear Sir

SUBMISSION TO WEL ENERGY TRUST'S DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2010/2011

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hamilton City Council (HCC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the WEL Energy Trust's Draft Annual Plan 2010/2011.

2.0 SPECIFIC COMMENTS

2.1 Healthier Homes Programme

- 2.1.1 HCC congratulates the Trust on the ongoing success of the Healthier Homes programme.
- 2.1.2 The success of this project rests on the ability of the Trust to utilise current funding to leverage additional funding from EECA and other organisations. HCC strongly supports the Trust in its approaches to other funders to further expand the Healthier Homes programme in Hamilton.
- 2.1.3 HCC acknowledges the Trust's funding allocation of \$150,000 towards the Healthier homes programme.
- 2.1.4 The importance to HCC that this programme is successful is reflected in its 2009-19 Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) funding provision of \$40,000 per annum for each of the three financial years to June 2012.
- 2.1.5 As the Trust will be aware, the work being undertaken in the Healthier Homes programme has been recognised as a key element to the environmental well-being of Hamilton, and as such is part of the 'Breathe Easy' flagship project for the city-wide Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The Healthier Homes programme is a key part of the 'Breathe Easy' coordination group for the city.
- 2.1.6 'Breathe Easy' represents a collaborative approach to improving home insulation standards in Hamilton and thereby reducing the need for inefficient wood burners. The project will focus on retrofitting pre-1978 homes with adequate insulation and promoting the replacement of old, inefficient wood burners with cleaner heating alternatives. The aim of this project is to have a significant impact on air quality within and outside of the home.

2.2 Funding for Energy Efficiency Related Projects

- 2.2.1 HCC also supports the Trust's proposed funding allocation of \$100,000 for energy efficiency related projects.
- 2.2.2 Addressing inefficient energy use in homes is a key issue for Hamilton in achieving the following two Environmental Sustainability Strategy outcome statements:
- "We understand resources are becoming scarce. The city's environmental footprint is minimised by ensuring natural and physical resources are used as intelligently as possible. As a community we increase the efficiency with which we use energy"
 - "The urban environment, of which we are part, depends on natural cycles and ecosystems. As agencies we work together to restore their function and integrity. The city has clean air"

2.3 Undergrounding of Overhead Powerlines

- 2.3.1 HCC notes that the Trust's Draft 2010/2011 Annual Plan makes funding provision of \$250,000 to assist WEL Networks Ltd with uneconomic undergrounding of electrical lines.
- 2.3.2 HCC would like to have discussions with the Trust and WEL Networks Ltd to ascertain whether this funding could be used to co-ordinate efforts on streets that Council has identified as being suitable for an undergrounding programme. In particular, those streets that have a higher than usual crash rate could be targeted to align with safety programmes.

2.4 Community Grants Programme

- 2.4.1 HCC strongly supports continuation of the Trust's Community Grants programme, and acknowledges the support provided by the Trust to a wide range of activities, facilities and services across the community - particularly non-profit community groups/the voluntary sector. This support contributes significantly to the overall well-being of the community.
- 2.4.2 HCC also appreciates the opportunity it has to apply for funding for projects it wishes to undertake that are not funded by Council. The support provided by the Trust enables HCC to proceed with smaller projects that add considerable value to the community.
- 2.4.3 HCC anticipates that the WEL Trust Community Grants programme will continue to play an essential role in supporting community projects in the coming years.
- 2.4.4 Given the significance that the programme has for Hamilton, HCC encourages the Trust to increase the value of the Community Grants programme, to provide an even greater level of support for the community.

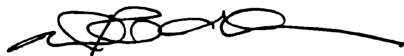
3.0 CONCLUDING COMMENTS

- 3.1 HCC trusts that the points made in this submission are helpful to the WEL Energy Trust when considering all submissions to its draft 2010/2011 Annual Plan.
- 3.2 HCC **does not wish to be heard** at the hearings held by the WEL Energy Trust in support of this submission.

3.3 Please contact the following people if you require clarification of points raised in this submission:

- Sections 2.1 and 2.2 - contact Liz Hallsworth (Sustainable Team Leader) on 838 6642 or email liz.hallsworth@hcc.govt.nz
- Sections 2.3 - contact Philip King (Access Hamilton Coordinator) on 838 6991 or email philip.king@hcc.govt.nz.
- Section 2.4 - contact Mark Brougham (Corporate Planner) on 838 6597 or email mark.brougham@hcc.govt.nz

Yours faithfully



Michael Redman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE