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Submission on Proposed Environmental Reporting Bill
Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362
WELLINGTON 6143

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING BILL

Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) thanks the Ministry for the Environment for the opportunity to comment on the environmental reporting framework in New Zealand. Comments are the views of Council officers.

PNCC supports the objectives of the review, that is to assign responsibility for regular and independent reporting on the state of the environment, and to deliver high quality, consistent environmental statistics. The PNCC commends the Ministry for showing leadership and addressing this issue as the lack of requirements for standardised data has meant that councils have been forced to do their best in creating monitoring and reporting frameworks.

PNCC generally agrees with the assessment of options. However, given that the status quo does not produce high quality environmental statistics it cannot be seen as a cost efficient option (Table 2 pg 19). PNCC agrees that the preferred options are appropriate to develop in more detail for the normal legislative process.

As PNCC covers largely an urban area and most of the New Zealand population lives in urban areas, PNCC requests consideration of reporting on the 'Built Environment' as an environmental domain (question 13). For example, greenhouse gas emissions analysis for New Zealand cities, or green networks of parks and reserves in urban contexts.

PNCC is a signatory to the Manawatu River Accord which aims to improve the state of the Manawatu River. Therefore, PNCC considers improving fresh water monitoring for consistency is a priority (question 15).

PNCC looks forward to receiving further detail of the proposals in order to make further comment. For any clarification of items in the submission please contact

Yours sincerely