

**Subject:** Annual Plan 2010/11 Activity Report – Building Services

**Prepared by:** Ian Petty

**Meeting Date:** 5/6 May 2010

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## Report to COUNCIL for decision

### SUMMARY

Only one submission to the draft 2010/11 Annual Plan contained comments relating to the Building Services activity. The officer response and recommendation in relation to this submission is attached. The submission dealt with the issue of simple, low cost approaches to the processing of solar hot water system building consents as undertaken by the Nelson City Council.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council

1. receives the report
2. approves the officer response contained in Attachment 1 - Building Services activity submission and response
3. makes no changes to the draft Annual Plan 2010/11 in relation to this activity
4. requests a report be prepared for the Environment & Policy Committee regarding Nelson City Council's approach to processing solar water heating building consents.

Ian Petty  
Activity Manager

Hans van Kregten  
Department Manager

## Summary and Response by Issue

For: Annual Plan 2010/11 - BUILDING SERVICES

Issue	Submitter
<b>Building Services</b>	
38	Easton, Lois Margaret

Wants council to follow the scheme undertaken by Nelson CC, which provides a simple, low cost approach for the processing of solar hot water system building consents. Solar water is sensible in Gisborne due to amount of sun.

*Officer Response: The Council funding Policy states that building consents are 100% user pays. Therefore while this is a laudable proposal the Building Section cannot process building consents for any given type of activity without a change in Council Policy. The Nelson initiative went further than just free building consents, it also offered a loan to purchase and install the system that was recovered from a targeted rate. To approve the issue of no cost building consents for the installation of solar water heaters would promote the subsidising of alternative energy work by people who can afford it by the general ratepayer. For such a scheme to be equitable it would require a change in Council funding and rating policies. This should be considered by the Environment and Policy Committee and a recommendation made to the full council. A more in depth proposal would be required which would then need a comprehensive officer(s) response.*

*Officer Recommendation: That there be no change to the draft Annual Plan but a report be prepared for the Environment and Policy committee so an informed decision can be made.*