

## **Report 99.458**

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Report to the Environment Committee  
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

### **Divisional Manager's Report**

#### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about activities of the Environment Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

#### **2. Manager's Reports**

The Department Manager's reports and the Divisional Accountant's report are attached.

#### **3. Environment Education/Communication Strategy**

We have been interviewing for the position of Environment Education Co-ordinator, but at the time of writing have not yet made an appointment.

It was good to see that the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, in his August Newsletter, awarded the Council a "Bouquet" for its environmental education strategy.

As I have mentioned before, staff are keen to implement the Strategy and there is a strong feeling of "let's stop thinking, writing and talking about it – and get out there and do it!". A start has already been made in several areas, e.g. Pauatahanui Inlet, Kakaho Stream, Waiwhetu Stream, Waikanae River mouth and Trees for Survival. It is rewarding to see progress being made – and even we are absolutely amazed at the level of interest and support in the community.

#### **4. Resource Management Amendment Bill**

We have some extra time to respond to the Bill as submissions are now due by 1 October 1999. This extension begs the question whether there will be time for the Bill

to be passed before the election, although the Minister has inevitably said that this is what he would like to happen.

As usual, Dr Hastie is co-ordinating the Council's response. We expect there to be little change, if any, from our original position.

## 5. **Consents**

Last year was an excellent year for the Consents Management Department as 100% of consents were processed within statutory timeframes. The median processing time for non-notifieds was seven working days for Wellington and the average cost to applicants has decreased from \$361 to \$342, an indication of greater efficiency.

This result, coupled with the PriceWaterhouse Coopers report, provides us with some hard evidence to combat the critics of the Resource Management Act 1991.

## 6. **State of the Environment Report**

This is now completed and in the process of being published. I feel much better about the format and content now and hope that the Council will be pleased with the result. It is an important document for identifying future directions, particularly through the Long-Term Financial Strategy.

## 7. **Emergency Management Group**

Stephen McArthur, Hutt City Council, and myself, have completed our report that was requested by the Chief Executives within the Region. It has been sent out for comment. If everyone is in agreement, we can, at last, begin to set up the Emergency Management Group.

## 8. **Recommendation**

*That the reports from the Divisional Manager, the Department Managers and the Divisional Accountant be received.*

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY  
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments.