

Managers Report, Resource Policy

Wayne Hastie, Manager

May 2000

1. Regional Plans

A summary of the status of the various Environment Court references on regional plans is attached (Attachment 1). Changes from the last meeting are shown in bold.

(1) Regional Coastal Plan (Wayne Hastie)

We understand that the Plan has been assessed by Department of Conservation staff and has been passed to the Minister for her consideration. We are hopeful of an early response.

The Minister has agreed in principle to launch the Plan.

(2) Regional Plan for Discharges to Land (Kirsten Forsyth)

The Plan became operative on 17 December 1999. There is nothing further to report to the Committee since the previous meeting.

(3) Regional Air Quality Management Plan (Nicki Kinghorn)

The Plan was adopted by the Council on 13 April 2000 and will become operative on 8 May 2000. It is currently being printed.

(4) Regional Freshwater Plan (Kirsten Forsyth, Murray McLea)

The Plan became operative on 17 December 1999. There is nothing further to report to the Committee since the previous meeting.

(5) Regional Soil Plan (Nicki Kinghorn)

We are still waiting for the Environment Court to process the final two consent orders. We are also still waiting for Mr Riddiford to withdraw his appeal to the High Court. Both matters are being pursued, and we remain hopeful of an early resolution to both.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

(1) Community and School Beach and Stream Management (Jo Fagan)

As reported to the last meeting, Seaweed cleanups occurred during 11-19th March, and the Council supported these through media releases. The cleanups

are organised by Don Richards and his summary and reports on this year's events are attached (Attachment 2).

We have agreed to support Clean Up New Zealand in their campaign which will occur during the period 18 – 24 September 2000.

The Waitohu Coastcare group have been replanting the dune system and cleaning up the foreshore.

(2) **On-site Sewage Treatment (Kirsten Forsyth)**

The territorial authorities in the western Region have agreed to the wording of the brochures and a meeting is scheduled with the Wairarapa councils. Design and printing options have been explored and it is hoped that the brochures can be printed in the near future.

(3) **Review of Air Discharge Problems (Nicki Kinghorn)**

We are reviewing the information we have about air discharges in the Region to identify the main contributors of pollutants and the areas that we should focus on when promoting non-regulatory methods to mitigate the effects of air discharges. A summary of the findings and draft recommendations have been sent to Regional Council staff for comment.

(4) **Promotion of Code of Practice for the Management of Agrichemicals (Nicki Kinghorn)**

Information has been collected and assessed, and recommendations are being developed. Internal discussions are on-going.

(5) **Sustainable Land Management (Nicki Kinghorn)**

A draft sustainable land management action plan has been prepared, and comment sought from other staff from within the Department prior to the commencement of wider consultation.

3. **Iwi matters (Tracey Whare)**

One part of the adopted proposal for strengthening the relationship between the Council and Iwi was to hold technical workshops. Three workshops were programmed this year, and Ara Tahī selected the topic areas. The first workshop on Maori Hearing Commissioners was held on 3 May, and provided a useful opportunity to explore the topic. A follow up workshop is scheduled for 7 June so that Ara Tahī can consider the outcomes on 14 June.

Iwi are being consulted about the internal review of the Regional Policy Statement and about projects that may be suitable for funding by the Council. Details will be reported to the Committee at a later stage.

Proposed changes to the Charter of Understanding were considered by Ara Tahī and were generally well received. We are drafting further changes in response to feedback, and will present the updated revision to the next meeting of Ara Tahī on 14 June.

4. Hazards (Jan Hania)

Opus International Consultants Limited have completed a draft report on the relative risk that natural hazards pose to the storage of petroleum products in the Wellington Region. The findings will be reported to the next Committee meeting.

4. Staff

Paula Reeves has commenced work as a Policy Advisor. Paula's key areas of work are coastal marine, wetlands, and community involvement. Apart from the position of Cartographer, which is currently frozen pending review, the Department is fully staffed.

Regional Coastal Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 920/96	Titahi Bay Residents' Association	Appeal resolved by Environment Court Decision W 6/2000, 1 February 2000.
RMA 921/96	Titahi Bay Residents' Association	Settled by consent order 18 October 1999.
RMA 701/98	Graeme Ebbett	Settled by consent order 18 October 1999.
RMA 926/96	Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited	Settled by consent order 17 March 1999
RMA 915/96	Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand	Settled by consent order 9 July 1998
RMA 904/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 906/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 905/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 907/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 908/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 909/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 23 February 1999
RMA 910/96	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 911/96	The Minister of Conservation	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 925/96	Lambton Harbour Management Limited	Withdrawn
RMA 949/96	Lambton Harbour Management Limited	Settled by consent order 8 May 1998
RMA 923/96	Tranz Rail Limited	Settled by consent order 21 May 1998
RMA 902/96	Daniel Thomas Spencer Riddiford	Settled by consent order 20 August 1998
RMA 913/96	EWJ & J Sims	Withdrawn

Regional Plan for Discharges to Land

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 308/97	Masterton District Council	Settled by consent order 11 November 1998
RMA 309/97	NZ Fertiliser Manufacturers Research Association	Settled by consent order 13 November 1998
RMA 313/97	Wellington City Council	Settled by consent order 13 November 1998
RMA 314/97	Tranz Rail Limited	Settled by consent order 2 September 1999.
RMA 315/97	Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited	Settled by consent order 2 September 1999.
RMA 316/97	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 2 September 1999.
RMA 320/97	PJ Atkinson	Part struck out as invalid by Environment Court The remainder was settled by consent order 21 September 1999.

Regional Air Quality Management Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 584/98	Port Wellington Limited	Settled by consent order 25 March 1999
RMA 583/98	Shell NZ Limited	Settled by consent order 6 April 1999
RMA 524/98	Dow AgroSciences	Settled by consent order 7 September 1999
RMA 586/98	Moir Street Residents' Group	Settled by consent order 27 March 2000

Regional Soil Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 1537/98	Department of Conservation	Settled by consent order 12 August 1999.
RMA 1460/98	Federated Farmers (Wairarapa)	Agreement reached with Federated Farmers. Jurisdictional hearing held at the Environment Court on 1 November 1999 at which time Mr Hedley withdrew from the proceedings. Evidence was completed for a Court hearing, but this became unnecessary when Mr Riddiford withdrew from the proceedings. A draft consent order is now before the Court.
RMA 1459/98	Transit New Zealand	Agreement reached by the parties and a draft consent order has been placed before the Environment Court.
RMA 1458	Winston Aggregates Limited	Settled by consent order 19 February 1999
RMA 1456/98	Dan Riddiford	Waiver application declined by the Environment Court. Decision appealed to the High Court. Application to strike out proceedings laid with the High Court. Mr Riddiford has indicated his intention to withdraw the appeal.
RMA 1461/98	Jim Hedley	Court declined Mr Hedley a waiver for late service of notice on WRC on 13 April 1999. Reference can not be heard by Court

Regional Freshwater Plan

Reference	Applicant	Status
RMA 471/99	Wellington Fish and Game Council	Settled by consent order 23 July 1999.