



Report 05.212
Date 9 May 2005
File E/06/18/03

Committee Environment Committee
Author Jane Bradbury Divisional Manager, Environment

Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

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

2. Managers' reports

The Department Managers' reports, along with the Divisional Accountant's report follow as **Attachment 1**.

3. Air Quality Standards

As Councillors are aware, national standards relating to air quality have recently been introduced. These are regulations that must be implemented by regional councils under the Resource Management Act 1991.

At its meeting on 17 May 2005, the Council endorsed the Local Air Management Areas where the ambient air quality standards will apply.

It is fair to say that the development of these standards has been quite a painful process and agreement between regional councils and the Ministry for the Environment has yet to be reached on some aspects of the standards. As this Council already had an Air Quality Monitoring Strategy, the impact of the standards is not as great as for some other councils. Nevertheless, they will impose extra work.

We can expect the air quality standards to be followed by others. However, through the Resource Managers Group, we are trying to work with the Ministry for the Environment to improve the process by which these standards are developed.

4. CDEM Group Plan

The CDEM Group Plan became operative on 5 May 2005. This Plan, the first under the Civil Defence Act 2002, has involved a wide range of people and co-ordinating their input has been a major task. The Plan does signal a new era for civil defence emergency management in the Region. However, it also imposes a significant workload on the Council.

5. Strategic Directions

After the last Environment Committee we had an informal discussion about the “environmental input” to the next LTCCP. At the time we signalled that we were just starting a “strategic directions” exercise involving Wairarapa staff and staff from other Divisions. A number of staff groups were set up to examine particular subject areas. The groups were based on those being used for the state of the environment report. The Environment management team is now collectively going through the findings and will be making recommendations as the LTCCP process continues.

6. Celebration for John Sherriff

John Sherriff, Manager, Resource Investigations, celebrated 10 years with the Council on 22 May 2005.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. receive the report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Jane Bradbury

Divisional Manager,
Environment

Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports