



Report **06.312**
Date 28 June 2006
File E/06/18/03

Committee **Environment Committee**
Author **Nigel Corry, Divisional Manager, Environment Management**

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. Divisional Structure

Following consultation with staff, a new Divisional structure has now been confirmed.

The key outcome of the review has been to integrate the existing Policy, Investigations and Consents departments into new departmental structures based on function, as opposed to having 'separate' teams in the Wairarapa and Wellington offices.

For instance, the Environmental Policy Department now consists of policy staff based in both Wellington and Wairarapa, with all staff reporting to one Manager, in this case, Nicola Shorten.

In addition, the review also resulted in:

- Integration of our consent and compliance and pollution control teams into a new Environmental Regulation Department. This brings together all our regulatory functions, and will allow for efficiencies and increased consistency in how we approach our compliance work for consented and non-consented activities.
- Development of an Environmental Monitoring and Investigation Department, which is focussed solely on our investigation, monitoring and scientific work.

- Establishment of a new Environmental Support Department aimed at aligning existing systems in both the Wairarapa and Wellington offices, particularly around financial, administration and support services.

A structure diagram outlining the above is provided for your information as **Attachment 2**.

I am now turning my attention to how we will report to the Environment Committee at future meetings to reflect this new structure, and am hopeful that we will be able to develop a new reporting framework for the August meeting of the Committee.

4. Sustainable Water Programme of Action

Councillors will be aware of the Sustainable Water Programme of Action which is aimed at improving the management of New Zealand's water resources.

This programme is a joint initiative between the Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and is focussed on three key national outcomes: strengthening partnerships; managing the undesirable effects of land use on water quality; and managing increased demands for water and efficient water management. Greater Wellington is involved at a number of levels in this programme, and Regional Councils are working collaboratively together to ensure that clear messages are being sent to Government as to our collective views on the management of the programme, and what outcomes are sought from the programme.

I am aiming for a report to be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee that will provide a full background to the programme, and highlight how Greater Wellington is engaging in this process. If Councillors think it would be useful, I can also arrange for someone from the Ministry for the Environment to provide a brief presentation on the programme.

5. Dairying and Clean Streams Accord: Progress 2004-2005

At the end of May, a progress report outlining results from the second year of the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord was released. At a national level, the report shows that 72 percent of dairy farms now exclude stock from their waterways, and 93 percent of farmers have bridged or culverted waterway crossing regularly used by stock. Both of these results are well in excess of targets.

In the Wellington region, we were able to report that all 210 of our dairy farms were inspected during the 2004/05 dairy season, with an 88.6% compliance rate. This is an excellent result. Over the last few years we have also made some excellent progress in eliminating dairy shed discharges to water, to the point where there are now only two left within the region, and both of these are to be phased out over the next year.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report; and*
- 2. Note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Nigel Corry

Divisional Manager,
Environment Management

Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports

Attachment 2: Environment Management Division Structure diagram