



Report 07.14
Date 30 January 2007
File ENV/22/03/01

Committee Environment Committee
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Stormwater Action Plan Update

1. Purpose

This report is to update the Environment Committee on the status of the Stormwater Action Plan. This document will provide a basis for integrated, sustainable stormwater management, and is being developed in collaboration with all Territorial Authorities in the region.

2. Background

Discharges from municipal stormwater networks continue to breach permitted activity rules, and are causing adverse effects in receiving waters in the region. In 2005-6, almost 40% of incidents dealt with by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team involved stormwater contaminants (typically oil, paint, cement, wash water and sediment).

Greater Wellington and territorial authorities have been collaborating since 2003 to improve our appreciation of stormwater issues facing the region. This led to the publication of an 'Issues and Options Report' in August 2005.

Meetings were then held with each of the territorial authorities to discuss their specific issues, concerns and preferences for a stormwater action plan. This revealed that territorial authorities wanted clear direction, and a slim-line management plan that did not replace any of their existing planning tools, and acknowledged the differences that existed between individual authorities.

Greater Wellington has since developed a draft Stormwater Action Plan that reflected the issues identified and acknowledged territorial authority preferences. It emphasizes an integrated approach, assigns effects-based priorities, and uses short-term actions to achieve long-term objectives. Attachment 1 illustrates how this document relates to existing organisations and their activities.

The draft Stormwater Action Plan has generated over 90 possible actions, which fall into the following four categories:

1. Regulatory

This incorporates the development of policy, planning and enforcement tools. This includes the update of policy statements, regional plans, district plans and associated documents.

2. Investigations

This includes new sampling, monitoring, surveys, research, and other investigations that characterise environmental conditions, relationships and trends, to support understanding and decision making.

3. Education

This includes initiatives to inform the community at large or selected groups, to improve their understanding and capability with respect to stormwater management.

4. Operations

This category includes the routine development, monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure, (in particular, stormwater infrastructure) and ongoing programmes that fall under the Regulatory, Investigations and Education categories (above).

In the draft document, Greater Wellington has committed to implementing a total of 22 individual actions (which are in addition to our existing routine programmes such as environmental monitoring, *Take Charge* audits and *Take Action*). These actions include a survey of industrial site pollution risk, the development of new stormwater education resources and quantifying the rate of urban stream loss.

This Action Plan will be a 'living document', with annual progress reviews leading to a new set of actions for the next year. A progress report will follow each annual review, which will evaluate whether signatories met the commitments they made, and the environmental outcomes achieved.

3. Comment

A final workshop will be held with Territorial Authorities on 21 February 2007, to review the draft plan and confirm each organisation's commitments to action for the coming financial year. It is anticipated that a final version of the document will be presented to each Territorial Authority for Chief Executive 'sign-off' in March 2007.

4. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

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