



Report 07.355
Date 8 June 2007
File WS/08/05/01

Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Authors Ian Gunn, Acting Divisional Manager, Catchment Management
Nigel Corry, Divisional Management, Environment
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Divisional Managers' Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the Committee's previous meeting held on 10 May 2007.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

4. Divisional matters

4.1 Catchment Management – Ian Gunn (Acting Divisional Manager)

Geoff Dick (Divisional Manager) is currently on annual leave in the USA with a return date of 12 June.

BioWorks

Scott Forbes (Manager, BioWorks) has resigned effective from 1st June 2007. He will shortly take up a position as Operational Manager of Hynos Pipes, Masterton Branch. Scott made a significant contribution to the BioWorks Unit when it was separated from the Biosecurity Department in 2004 to comply with the Animal Health Board's contract requirements.

Wayne O'Donnell is in the interim Acting Manager of BioWorks while still fulfilling his Biosecurity Department management role. Wayne will report elsewhere in the order paper on recent discussions with the Animal Health Board regarding Bovine Tb work in the Greater Wellington region. These discussions

have become very important with Target Pests (the contracting arm of Environment Canterbury) recently going into receivership.

A recent fatal car accident at Queens Birthday Weekend in rural Masterton involved four Fixed Term Contract staff from the BioWorks Unit. Provision has been made for the involvement of EAP (Employment Assistance Programme) for those BioWorks staff requiring assistance at this time.

Kopuaranga River Enhancement Project

It was pleasing to gain an overwhelming acceptance for an amended Kopuaranga River Enhancement Project at a public meeting on 24 May. A report seeking your approval of this project is included in this order paper.

Job Evaluation

All staff in Greater Wellington are involved in a job evaluation process. It is sometime since the last Council-wide job evaluation process was undertaken. Each staff member has completed a questionnaire describing their role in the Council. The time deadlines are tight and I have been impressed with the diligent approach taken by all staff.

Flood Risk Management and Sustainable Water Programme of Action Reviews

The Government has decided to propose National Policy Statements for both of the above reviews. Local Government NZ has developed Position Statements on both the regional council and local territorial authorities who have strongly supported the LGNZ position. The Government appears at this time to be planning consultation on these National Policy Statements within the next 2-3 months.

Interestingly, integrated (total) catchment management is becoming a central plan in both of these reviews. This is primarily due to the impact of land use decisions on flooding, water quality, and water allocation. At this time the reviews are separate pieces of work.

It is clear that the Local Government Act (2002) provides a vehicle to progress such an approach. There is a requirement under the LGA to consider the four wellbeings – social, economic, cultural, and environmental – of the community taking a sustainable development approach and the reasonable foreseeable needs of future generations.

5. Environment Management – Nigel Corry

Regional Policy Statement

I am pleased to advise that after the final Councillor workshop on 22 May, draft Regional Policy Statement (RPS) provisions have now been made publicly available and comments are being sought from a wide range of interested parties. The second RPS newsletter, with a summary of the draft provisions, has been sent to around 200 interested people and parties, including all the region's city and

district councillors. Our website has also been updated to provide electronic access to both the newsletter and full suite of draft provisions.

As well as ongoing staff involvement with territorial authorities, Councillors Turver and Baber are currently in the process of visiting each city and district council to raise awareness of the draft RPS provisions. They will be visiting Carterton District Council on 19 June, Masterton District Council on 22 June and South Wairarapa District Council on 27 June. Comments on the draft RPS will be received through to mid-July.

Resource Management Charging Policy

The consultation period of the draft Resource Management Charging Policy ran from 20 April to 21 May 2007. There were no submissions received on the proposed changes to the draft policy.

On 11 June 2007 the Hearings subcommittee met and resolved to recommend to the Environment Committee that the draft Resource Management Charging Policy be approved. It is anticipated that this will occur at the Environment Committee meeting on 22 June.

6. Water Supply, Parks & Forests – Murray Kennedy

Reserve Forests

Tauanui logging

One of the benefits of a very dry period in the Wairarapa, in spite of a high fire risk, has been the ability to log in conditions that require low maintenance for the roads. A May result of 1622 tonnes harvested is particularly pleasing.

Wind energy

Tenders for the right to develop a wind farm at Stoney Creek closed on 11 June and it is expected a tender report should be available for the next Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee meeting.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachments 1, 2, 3, 4: