



caring about you & your environment

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Report to Environment Committee
from Councillor Irvine Yardley

Update on Wellington Regional Environment Agency

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the meeting of the WREA on Friday 22 February.

2. Discussion

This report provides a summary of the issues discussed at this meeting. There was a good deal of discussion about how to deal with used tyres. There are differences in how the territorial authorities of the Region deal with them, and there appear to be opportunities for recycling or reuse but information on volumes and the size of the market for old tyres is poor. A working group was set up to make progress on this issue.

Glen Woodley, from the Ministry for the Environment was the guest speaker and he spoke about the New Zealand Waste Strategy.

Funding for Enviromart, the materials exchange, was also discussed. At present Enviromart is funded by participating Councils and there is a proposal to increase the level of funding to enable the co-ordinator to do more and extend Enviromart's capacity. As not all of the Council's are able to increase their funding, the proposal seems unlikely to go ahead and the co-ordinator will investigate other funding options. The Regional Council has made provision in its budget for a possible increase next financial year because Enviromart is a useful service and complements our *Take Charge* initiatives with small businesses.

The finances of WREA itself are on target and the Inland Revenue Department has give the organisation charitable status. The WREA is working through a process of become a Trust, and the wording of the deed was briefly discussed. This could have some implications for this Council which we will need to investigate in due course.

Finally, it was recognised that there is a need for the WREA to promote itself more and to give the matters it is concerned about a higher profile. As part of this, it was agreed that there be a presentation to the Zone 4 meeting in November.

3. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) *receives the report; and*
- (2) *notes the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Cr IRVINE YARDLEY
Deputy Chair, Environment Committee