



caring about you & your environment

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Report to the Landcare Committee
from Councillor Hugh Barr

Wellington Conservation Board (WCB) Meeting : 14 June 2002

1. Purpose

To advise the Landcare Committee of issues arising from the Wellington Conservation Board (WCB) Meeting.

2. Sustainability of the Eel Fishery in the Wellington Region

The WCB appreciates support from the WRC. The Board is writing to the New Zealand Conservation Authority, expressing its concern at the apparent degrading of the Wellington region fishery, and that the proposed quota management areas are too large for local communities of interest to have an effective stake especially in protection of the sustainability of the eel fishery.

Please note that the North Island eel quota system will now start a year later, on 1 October 2004.

3. Masterton and Martinborough Sewage Upgrades and Low Water Quality

The Wairarapa Board members expressed disappointment at the excessively slow upgrade speed proposed by Masterton District Council (MDC) for the Masterton scheme (up to ten years before any new scheme), and the need for improved water discharge quality at Martinborough. Both schemes discharge into the Ruamahanga River.

The WCB was concerned that MDC was spending funds on a recreation centre upgrade, and this would compete with funds that should be spent on upgrading the sewage system. They were disappointed interim consent would give only “minor enhancements” at Homebush, and that the ten year term was far too long. The WCB point out it is already five years since MDC’s consent expired.

4. Coastal Erosion and Subdivision

Board members are concerned both about erosion of sand dune properties at Waikanae-Paraparaumu, that should never have been built on, and also at the never-ending pressure to subdivide the coast, in spite of “the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment” being a matter of national importance in the RMA. They want to make sure the Wairarapa coastal policy adequately takes account of these factors.

5. Pest Control around Mt Bruce Sanctuary

The Board was enthusiastic about WRC’s budget and programme to do this.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) ***Receive the report.***
- (2) ***Note the contents of the report.***

Report prepared by:

COUNCILLOR HUGH BARR
Deputy Chairperson, Landcare Committee