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Report to the Utility Services Committee
from John Duggan, Asset Engineer, Strategy and Asset Group

Public Access to Water Collection Areas

1. Purpose

To report on progress towards opening the water collection areas for public access.

2. Background

At the Utility Services Committee meeting on 11 February 1997 the Committee resolved:

- (1) *That the continuing preparations to open the Hutt Water Collection Area by 30 June 1997 be noted.*
- (2) *That the opening of the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area is delayed until the water treatment plant is achieving the required standard of water treatment, in line with policy 7.1 of the Forest Lands and Water Collection Areas Management Plan.*
- (3) *That the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area is opened within six months of the Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant achieving the specified water quality standards.*
- (4) *That an Access Operational Plan for the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area is prepared and reported to the committees for approval by June 1998.*
- (5) *That public information on progress toward the eventual opening of the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area is disseminated at appropriate times.*

At the Utility Services Committee meeting on 29 July 1997 the Committee resolved:

That the Committee agrees that detailed design of a reaction tank for Wainuiomata Water treatment Plant should proceed.

3. Progress to Date

3.1 Hutt Water Collection Area

The Hutt Water Collection Area was officially opened for public access on Saturday, 28 June 1997. During July 16 hunting permits were issued and approximately 100 people visited the area. Visitors were mainly tramping club members. Most hunters appear to be venturing into the catchment for a look around. Hunting is expected to occur when daylight saving starts in October 1997.

3.2 Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant

For the Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant to achieve the water quality standards specified in the Forest Lands and Water Collection Areas Management Plan an inlet reaction chamber is required at the plant. Agreement to proceed with the detailed design of this reaction chamber was received from the Committee on 29 July 1997. This work has been initiated. As part of this work a detailed programme is being prepared for this project. The programme will be provided to the Committee when available.

3.3 Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area Access Operational Plan

Preparation of the access operational plan is being undertaken by the Recreation Department with input from the Utility Services Division. Initial discussions have taken place with a view to agree on roles and programme. The following is an indicative programme of work for the preparation of the access operational plan:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| (1) | Internal discussion and agreement of process and programme | September 1997 |
| (2) | Preparation of discussion document | October 1997 |
| (3) | Consultation meetings | November 1997 |
| (4) | Preparation of draft plan | February 1998 |
| (5) | Internal review of draft and further consultation | March 1998 |
| (6) | Completion of final plan | April 1998 |
| (7) | Obtain Committee approval | June 1998 |

It should be noted that these dates are subject to confirmation by the Recreation Department.

The timing of the opening of the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area to public access will be determined during the preparation of the Access Operational Plan. Issues that will be taken into account in the preparation of this plan include the construction programme for the reaction chamber, site security and ranger staffing with associated budget requirements. With Council approval of the expenditure requirements identified in the Access Operational Plan, the water collection area should be able to be opened for public access by July 1999.

4. Recommendation

That the Committee notes the progress towards opening the water collection areas for public access.

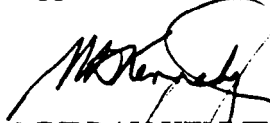
Report prepared by:



JOHN DUGGAN

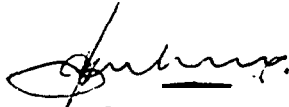
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