



*caring about you & your environment*

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Report to Environment Committee  
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

## **Divisional Manager's Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

### **2. Manager's Reports**

The Department Managers' reports, along with the report from the Divisional Accountant, are attached.

### **3. Australian / N Z Planning Congress, Wellington, April 2002**

Impacts 2002 is the first joint annual conference of the New Zealand Planning Institute and the Planning Institute of Australia. This inaugural event is being held in Wellington, 8 – 12 April 2002. The programme is attached.

As this is the first time that New Zealand and Australia have joined together for a planning conference of this nature, the programme is comprehensive. Some of the issues currently facing the Council, for example, '*Urban Growth Management*' are main topics for discussion.

A Councillor has attended the New Zealand Planning Institute's conference for the past two years. Therefore, the Committee may wish to consider whether the Council should send a representative to this conference. It is likely that a Councillor will be delivering a paper to the Councillors' Workshop on 8 April 2002.

#### 4. **New Zealand Waste Strategy: Pre-introduction Workshop**

In April 2000 *Local Government New Zealand* and the Ministry for the Environment established a working party to advise on the development of the national strategy for waste minimisation. The first phase of this advice was completed in December 2000 with the release of a document entitled “*Towards a National Waste Minimisation Strategy*”.

Since then a great deal of work has gone into the development of this framework strategy. The strategy was approved in principle by the National Council of *Local Government New Zealand* in December 2001 and will be considered by the Government for approval in February.

A background briefing paper on the strategy is attached.

We have agreed to host a workshop to brief regional and territorial local authorities on the implications of the strategy for local government, prior to the formal release of the *New Zealand Waste Strategy* on 1 March 2002.

The workshop is targeted at local government officers and councillors.

The Committee may wish to consider whether the Council sends a Councillor representative to this *New Zealand Waste Strategy* workshop. It may be appropriate the Council’s representative on the Regional Environmental Agency, Councillor Yardley, is appropriate as waste management is an essential concern for the Agency.

#### 5. **Kapiti Water**

Kapiti Coast District Council is continuing to look at its water situation, especially as its resource consent application to take water from the Otaki river was unsuccessful.

In January we were invited to be part of a workshop on the issue, together with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Iwi, our utility staff and public health staff. This was the first time that all those involved had been brought together to discuss the issue.

Paula Bullock and Dave Benham gave presentations from the Council. As the regulatory body, Paula’s task was to outline our policies (and the reasons behind them), as well as the consent situation and the state of the resources.

#### 6. **Fire Fighting**

Debbie Cunningham, our Emergency Management Officer, was selected to be part of the New Zealand team who went to assist with the Australian bush fires. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Debbie on her selection. The feedback I have received was that her “professional expertise came to the fore”. The experience Debbie gained was very relevant to our work and proved a worthwhile opportunity to assess an incident management system in practice.

## 7. **Environment Education**

We have officially started with our first environment education trail – “*Take Action for Water*”. Three schools are taking part this term (Pukerua Bay, Paparangi and Greytown Primary).

We are delighted at the response to this programme and are determined that our future plans for this area of work will continue along the lines of ‘*innovation, taking responsibility and having fun*’. We hope that Councillors will be able to attend the official launch of the “*Take Action*” programme at Battle Hill on 22 March 2002.

## 8. **Budgeting**

Since the last meeting of the Environment Committee much of our time (apart from our holidays) has been spent developing our budgets. The long term financial strategy process has resulted in less work in years 2 and 3 than under the previous system. Nevertheless it still takes a fair bit of organisation and discussion to reassess and present our budgets.

## 9. **Recommendation**

- (1) *That the reports from the Divisional Manger, the Departmental Managers’ and the Divisional Account be received.*
- (2) *That the Committee consider whether it will send a Council representative to Impacts 2002 Conference 8 – 12 April 2002.*
- (3) *That the Committee consider whether it will send a Council representative to the New Zealand Waste Strategy workshop on 22 February 2002.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachments