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**Report 02.710**

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Report to the Landcare Committee  
from Councillor Hugh Barr

**Wellington Conservation Board (WCB) Meeting: 15 October 2002**

**1. Purpose**

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

**2. Co-ordinated Management of Lake Wairarapa Wetlands**

The next Conservation Board meeting will be in the Wairarapa (Martinborough). It will include an inspection of South Wairarapa sites, and discussion of co-ordinated management of Lake Wairarapa, as discussed in DOC's Conservation Management Strategy – pages 29-38. DOC manage over 10,000 ha of the Lake Wairarapa wetlands. Given that the WRC is planning a Regional Park there in the future, I suggest that the WRC continue their discussions with DOC and other players, e.g. Fish & Game, to ensure that all act in a co-ordinated way.

**3. Wellington Conservancy Forest Habitat Monitoring**

DOC scientist Steve Ulrich gave a useful presentation on forest native ecosystem monitoring assessing:

- effects of invasive species.
- disturbance ecology.
- fragmentation ecology.
- threatened plant communities.
- habitats sustaining threatened fauna and flora.

This monitoring includes the permanent plot systems started in the 1950s, and photo points. It is aimed at helping DOC track the health, restoration and functioning of native ecosystems, and so report on their condition, and decide budget allocations and priorities. It is part of DOC's proposed Natural Heritage Management System, now being developed, aimed at prioritising ecosystem management funds. A ten year monitoring programme 2002-12 is being devised for the Wellington conservancy. This will look to monitoring browsing ungulates (mainly goats), possums and weeds.

I suggest that Steve Ulrich be invited to give this presentation to appropriate WRC staff on this monitoring and prioritisation work.

#### 4. **Monitoring and Managing Instream and Estuarine Habitats**

Eric Dorfman, a new Conservancy advisory scientist, was introduced at the meeting. He has a broad ecological experience in Australia, the Pacific and South Africa. He is advising DOC on freshwater ecosystems, especially around Lake Wairarapa.

It may be useful for WRC staff with an interest in Lake Wairarapa to meet him, if they have not already done so.

#### 5. **Possum Control Mt Bruce**

DOC will be undertaking a possum poisoning programme with feratox (cyanide) from 30 September to 10 December 2002, to reduce possum numbers in the Mt Bruce sanctuary area.

#### 6. **Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- (1) **Receive** the report.
- (2) **Note** the contents of the report.
- (3) **Consider** the need to talk to the Department of Conservation about greater co-ordination with interested parties over joint management of the Lake Wairarapa Wetlands.

Report prepared by:

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WRC Liaison Appointee to the WCB