



Report **03.254**
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Committee **Rural Services and Wairarapa**
Author **Colin Wright, Divisional Manager, Wairarapa**

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of current activities and provide information of interest since the previous meeting held on 15 April 2003.

2. Divisional Matters

2.1 Combined Wairarapa Councils Meeting

Cr Long and the Divisional Manager will be attending a Combined Wairarapa Councils Meeting on 23 May. These meetings are held three times per year and help provide a useful exchange of information and views between the four councils.

In addition, I met quarterly with the Chief Executive Officers of the three District Councils. More recently these meetings have also included the Chief Executive of the Wairarapa District Health Board so that there is a wider focus on the wellbeing of the Wairarapa community.

2.2 Federated Farmers Annual General Meeting

Cr Long, Mr Blakemore and I will be attending the annual general meeting of Wairarapa Federated Farmers following this Committee meeting. We have been asked to discuss several topics with the group, particularly resource management issues.

2.3 Irrigation Study

The report on Stage 2 of the Wairarapa Irrigation Study is scheduled to be completed in late June. I have been working with Go Wairarapa recently to develop a possible Stage 3 programme to help move the community irrigation scheme concepts nearer towards a future reality.

3. Operations Department: (Ian Gunn)

3.1 Farm Environment Awards Field Day

The culmination to this year's Farm Environment Awards was the field day held at the property of the Supreme winners, Errol and Adele Croad. They own a 200 hectare deer and cattle property on the north bank of the Otaki River. In excess of 70 people attended the day, including 30 from the Wairarapa who ventured across in the bus provided free by the organisers.

The property has stunning views of the Otaki Plains and Kapiti Island, providing an added to bonus to the immaculately presented farming operation. Following a venison lunch kindly provided by Richmonds Limited and a stroll through the extensive gardens, visitors embarked on a farm tour to view the various practices and innovations that made the property a winner.

3.2 Akura Conservation Centre

Planning is well advanced for the Conservation Centre to open for trading on Tuesday, 3 June 2003. Brochures featuring the new brand have been prepared and initial tree stocks have been procured.

Pole prices have been increased by 5.5% following an analysis of costs in relation to this year's production. Prices of seedlings and other stock items have generally not moved from last year, with the exception of lines of GF 17 Pinus radiata and Leyland cypress.

3.3 Papawai Riparian Project

Informal introductory meetings have been completed with key members of the community, including farmers, Encore Orchard, Papawai Marae, DoC, and South Wairarapa District Council (Moroa water race).

Various water quality problems have been identified. Initial information has been collated on their location or origin, cause, nature and severity. The next step is to convene a "meeting of the minds", involving staff from the Wairarapa Division who have knowledge of the area or specific expertise. The intention is to pool our own knowledge before looking elsewhere for answers or information.

3.4 Technical Services

Activities completed include -

- Work on Lower Valley Control project, GPS survey work completed for remaining bench markers from Tuhitarata Bridge to Pukio
- Posters for Bovine Tb operations Holdsworth/Carterton and Featherston/Wairongomai
- Lower Valley reclassification work, supply of information to Gary Williams and Andy Duncan
- First stage of plan database completed for Wairarapa Division plan scanning project

- Computer draughting work on Soil Conservation farm and sustainability plans
- Large number of external customer enquires for maps and information
- Gravel Licence System – processing of gravel returns and new licences
- GIS and mapping work completed for Coastal Strategy project.

3.5 Scheme Meetings

As reported elsewhere in the order paper, river management scheme meetings have been completed. All the scheme committees are in good ‘heart’ and have appreciated the lack of floods this year.

The Lower Taueru Willow Clearing Scheme has agreed to forego rates this year to reduce the size of the Scheme reserve.

3.6 Spraying

The settled weather has resulted in widespread spraying being completed in the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme and in most drainage schemes.

3.7 Upper Ruamahanga River – Gladstone Section

A bulldozer has traversed the entire length of this scheme. The focus has been on the ripping of gravel beaches and channel alignment.

In the Ahiaruhe section, cables were removed and a well cemented beach was ripped. The operator stated this particular beach was ‘harder than anything in the Waiohine River’. This stretch of river now has a much better alignment.

In the vicinity of Te Whiti the river was widened and realigned. This should relieve pressure on the river bank.

3.8 Waipoua River

Works have been completed on the stopbank in the vicinity of Garrod’s property. This stopbank has leaked in floods in the recent past. The existing stopbank was excavated and the leaking material removed.

3.9 Tauanui Access

Agreement had been held up as a result of differences between Didsbury and Maori owners concerning reciprocal access over the right of way. Acceptable wording has now been agreed and documents amended and forwarded for signatures. The pilot track has now reached the Tauanui timber thus giving us limited access.

3.10 Stoney Creek Silviculture

Steady progress has seen the achievement of 247 hectares of pruning and 438 hectares of thinning for year to date.

3.11 Lincoln Agriculture Students

An afternoon was spent with 44 Lincoln University Agricultural Science Students and their lecturers as part of their annual North Island Tour. Field sites were visited on the return trip from Pottingers at Tinui. The Stoney Creek Video was viewed at Solway Park. An extensive discussion on Forestry and Land Management issues followed.

3.12 Proposed Rural Fire District

As indicated at the last meeting, discussions are ongoing on the development of a single rural fire district for the Wairarapa. We have indicated that the Council will not support the current funding proposal. Any funding proposal needs to be equitable with appropriate levies being developed for all forest owners.

4. Planning & Resources Department: (Steve Blakemore)

4.1 Environmental Incidents

<i>Date</i>	<i>Incident</i>
7/04/2003	Two vehicles abandoned beside river, Featherston. Removed by GW and disposed of at landfill.
6/04/2003	Dairy effluent grossly polluting bore, Featherston. Back flow preventer installed, and bore purged. Council staff to review the practice of pumping effluent into an irrigation line.
24/04/2003	Dumping of rubbish at Waiohine River at end of Kuratawhiti St, Greytown. Occurred shortly after GW staff had erected a sign asking people not to dump rubbish. Unable to be traced, and removed by GW staff.
28/04/2003	Downstream neighbour blocking stream, Masterton. Staff have visited three properties and arranged for dam to be removed and section of Makoura Stream margin to be retired from stock.
1/05/2003	Vehicle in Tauherenikau River. Removed by GWRC.
2/05/2003	Upstream neighbour alleged to have diverted entire flow of a stream coming out of the Tararua Ranges. Under investigation.
5/05/2003	Farmer had dumped dead sheep in a gully which is likely to flow in winter. Staff asked the farmer to remove carcasses and bury them properly.
8/05/2003	Dust from joinery factory settling on cars in neighbouring property. Owner of factory has agreed to make improvements to his cyclone.

4.2 Enforcement

Carterton District Council

As reported at the April meeting, the Council had failed to comply with the consent condition requiring no discharge of treated effluent to the Mangatarere Stream during the three-month period of 1 January to 31 March 2003.

The decision was taken not to prosecute because of the efforts made by the Council to find a solution in the last year or so, but abatement and infringement notices have been issued. The abatement notice requires compliance with the consent condition to cease discharges to the Mangatarere Stream on 1 January 2004. The infringement notice requires a fine of \$750 to be paid.

These decisions were covered in a press release published in the two Wairarapa papers.

Abatement Notices

These have been issued requiring:

- Stopping of unconsented diversion and taking of water.
- Compliance with consent condition (Carterton District Council)

Infringement Notices

These have been issued with respect to:

- Unconsented diversion and taking of water.
- Unconsented discharge to stream (Carterton District Council)

4.3 Notified Consents

Featherston Sewage – discharge	Draft AEE completed. Consultation proceeding with initial site meeting held.
Opaki and Te Ore Ore Water Races – Masterton District	Submissions closed 12/2/03. Applicant negotiating with objectors.
Carterton sewage discharge. Application for variation.	Submissions closed on 19/12/02. Application on hold at applicant's request.
Water Races -Carterton, and South Wairarapa District Councils (4)	Awaiting further information from applicant's consultant.
Discharge to air from sewage ponds – Carterton and Greytown	Granted without appeal.
Water take – Waingawa River – Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre	On hold awaiting submitter sign off.

4.4 Appeals

<i>Appellant</i>	<i>Nature of Appeal</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
J Barton	Additional charges on withdrawn stopbank access application	Mediation declined	Hearing awaited
J Barton	Requirement for 'up front' payment of estimated consent processing costs.		Hearing awaited.
I Alexander	Appeal of abatement notice requiring irrigation to cease	Interest registered with Court.	Evidence prepared. Hearing awaited.

4.5 Motuwaireka Lagoon

Consent has been granted to the Riversdale Ratepayers Association to clean and widen the lagoon. The aerial photograph record shows a steady narrowing of the lagoon on the left bank since 1943. The work is in many ways a declamation, returning the lagoon to its former size.

4.6 Coastal Strategy

The project is now in the "writing stage", drawing on the information assembled in the technical reports and the submissions received throughout the process. This will result in the release of a draft strategy for public consultation in August. The Coastal Strategy Group met on 5 May and received the results of the public consultation process and the coastal user survey.

The Vision for the Strategy is:

To provide for sensitive, sustainable development of the Wairarapa Coast which recognises and retains its special qualities.

A workshop on 19 May considered the special qualities, issues and goals for inclusion in the draft strategy. The draft inland boundary for the strategy was also discussed.

4.7 Coastal Sewage

Graham Sevicke-Jones represented the Council at a Riversdale residents meeting held on Easter Sunday. Strong community support was given for a reticulated scheme and the community were keen for the project to progress without undue delay.

South Wairarapa District Council are firming up an application for Government subsidy for a reticulated sewerage system for Lake Ferry. Annual Plan provision has been made for construction in the forthcoming financial year.

4.8 Laboratory Services

Tenders closing at the end of May have been called for collection and analysis of freshwater and groundwater samples for the next three years. To date

Wairarapa samples have been mainly collected by staff, and analysed by external laboratories. In Wellington, collection and analysis has been undertaken by the Council's Utility Services Laboratory.

The revised region-wide water quality programmes has enabled this new combined approach to occur.

4.9 Mokonui Fault Study

GNS have completed their trenching study on the Mokonui Fault north and west of Masterton. The trench enabled previous fault movement to be identified and measured, and carbon samples obtained for dating. The results were presented at the annual meeting of the Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Association and are contained in the project report

4.10 Erosion and Sediment Control

Regional guidelines have been published setting out methods and requirements for sediment control during earthmoving operations. The current work on the Kaitoke deviation implements several of these methods as required by that project's consents. Widespread use has been made of silt fences and silt detention dams have been constructed.

4.11 Hydrology

Rainfall

Rainfall continued to be low at all sites during April, down to only one third of normal in the Tararuas. This reflects the absence of westerly rain, normally associated with the autumn equinox.

Site	Location	April		March		April	March
		Rain mm	Average	Rain mm	Average	% of average	
Angle Knob	Tararua Ranges	157	490	326	443	32	74
Alloa	Middle Valley	33	80	21	78	41	27
Tanawa Hut	Eastern Hills	49.5	104	67	101	47	66

Rivers

Low river flows have continued at around one third of normal. Fortunately most irrigation consents are now outside their consented irrigation periods which end at 30 April. Accordingly it has not been necessary to issue new restrictions in these cases.

Site	April		March		April	March
	Flow <i>m³/sec</i>	Average	Flow <i>m³/sec</i>	Average	% of average	
Waiohine	6.7	20.5	6.6	18	33	37
Waihenga	19	60.4	18	49	31	37

Floodwarning

Low flow and high sea conditions saw the opening at Lake Onoke blocked on three occasions during the month. The only “flood alarm” activated during April was for rainfall at Angle Knob when 16mm fell on 6 April. There were no warnings issued.

	April	Financial Year to date	Previous Year to Date
No. of events	0	8	6
No of Lists Issued	0	33	21

4.12 Groundwater

Bore Permits

Demand for bores has continued at around last years levels.

	April	Financial Year to date	Previous Year to Date
Applications Received	9	70	68
Consents Issued	11	66	71

The Parkvale monitoring bore continues to show water levels to be at their long term minimum. A number of enquiries have been received about wells that have “gone dry” or had unusually low water levels.

5. Biosecurity Department: (Wayne O’Donnell)

Pest Plants:

5.1 KNE Contracts

(1) Trelissick Park:

Two large areas of blackberry infestation in the northern section of this Wellington reserve were recently sprayed by helicopter in preparation for re-vegetation planting this winter. Re-vegetation planting will be carried out by Wellington City Council assisted by a local care group. Another area of blackberry within the park received an initial spray application in preparation for replanting during the 2003/04 winter.

This is the second time helicopter spraying has been carried out within Trelissick Park without any complaints from adjacent occupiers. All local residents received a letter advising when the operation was to take place and the reason an aircraft was required to carry out the work. During the work warning signs were in place and Plants staff were on hand to divert people away from the operational areas.

(2) Otari Reserve

A contractor has completed weed control work in areas to be planted by the Otari Care Group during the winter. With no access into the park for vehicles, all control has been undertaken by knapsack.

5.2 Garden Waste Dumping.

A group representing all city and district councils in the region have held regular meetings over the last few months to develop a strategy to discourage illegal disposal of unwanted vegetation. Together with a range of publicity initiatives the group has prepared a pamphlet for local distribution by each TLA. This pamphlet and the other initiatives explain the environmental damage that can result from indiscriminate dumping.

5.3 Nursery Inspections

Plants staff are currently inspecting nurseries and plant retail outlets to ensure plants banned by the National Pest Plant Accord and the RPMS are not being sold or offered for sale. Eight outlets have been found selling banned plants. This involved four species, with Eel Grass (vallisneria) the most common plant found.

5.4 Communications

Staff have erected a pest plant display at Puzzlewood, a recently established public education facility in Greytown. The owner of this establishment has expressed interest in having other Greater Wellington departments promote their activities at this facility.

On Saturday, 3 May staff attended a plants display at the Otari Restoration day. There was a large attendance with considerable interest in the Biosecurity display.

Pest Animals:

5.5 Rabbits

There has been a noticeable increase in rabbits at various locations throughout the region. This situation is predicted to get worse over the next year or two. There has still been no evidence of Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD) recycling this autumn. Indications are that the five-year epidemic has run its course. A number of Regional Councils are considering applying to ERMA to import RHD from Australia for ongoing use as a biocide.

Staff have been busy supplying bait to a range of occupiers for rabbit control. Many are still reasonably small areas on the most favourable rabbit habitat, but

the demand for assistance is growing. Some farmers have recommenced nightshooting.

Biosecurity staff have recommenced shooting rabbits for bait for predator control. Until recently it was cost prohibitive to do this and other bait alternatives such as chicken and fish oils were being used. One staff member shot over 160 rabbits in two brief sorties near the Kaiwhata River on the Wairarapa's East Coast. Another staff member shot 350 rabbits over three nights at the area known as the 'Whakatikei Gravel Pit' between the Hutt River and River Road at Upper Hutt. It was not practicable to poison this area because of its very high public use.

A small holding on the Waiohine Gorge Road west of Carterton has recently disclosed rabbit damage to three year-old macrocarpa trees. Some trees have died. Rabbits were also reported to be 'trimming' the young gorse, something that has not been noticeable in recent years. In the adjacent Matarawa District, 110 rabbits were shot in a night on prime dairy land, the type of farmland not normally associated with a rabbit problem. At Waiorongomai Station, Western Lake Wairarapa, over 1,000 rabbits have been shot over the late summer. This is a well-developed property in a high rainfall area and could not be described as rabbit prone country.

Rabbit numbers are also of concern at the Clareville Complex (Carterton) and the Colombo Road Sportsground/Deer Park/Hospital area of Masterton. Rabbits have been digging holes in the sports fields.

A rabbit prone survey of the most historic problem areas of the Kapiti Coast was conducted earlier this month. It disclosed significant rabbit increases over the past year at four properties in the Te Horo and Peka Peka area. The worst area once more, is the Ames Street Reserve at Paekakariki. Other areas that will need close surveillance are the picnic areas of Queen Elizabeth Park and both sides of the mouth of the Waikanae River.

In Wellington City, Biosecurity staff have undertaken rabbit control at Wrights Hill Reserve, Tinakori Hill Reserve and at Ian Galloway Park.

Recently, rabbit poisoning operations have been undertaken at coastal settlements of Whangaimoana (Palliser Bay) and Riversdale. Approximately 280 Riversdale occupiers were approached for permission to inspect their properties and to lay Pindone poison carrots if required. At least 180 replies were received giving Biosecurity staff permission to proceed.

A similar rabbit poisoning operation is programmed for Castlepoint and environs. This is scheduled to start 9th June 2003. Approximately 160 occupiers will be consulted for approval to inspect and apply bait. This operation is being conducted in association with the Department of Conservation who has responsibility for the Castlepoint Scenic Reserve (Deliverance Cove, the Basin and the Reef).

Both the Riversdale and Castlepoint operations were at the request of their respective Residents and Ratepayers Associations.

A request has also been received recently for a rabbit control operation at Lake Ferry Township. This proposal requires further investigation.

Whilst actual and reasonable costs are sought for rabbit control on most private and public land, the Regional Pest Management Strategy provides for rabbit control on riverbeds, esplanades and similar public commons at no cost to the occupiers.

5.6 Wetlands Survey

The Greater Wellington Wetlands Action Plan (April 2003) identified the need to develop a concise inventory of all wetlands in the region. Once completed, the database will be maintained to prioritise wetlands for protection and restoration. It will also form the basis of State of the Environment reporting for wetlands. So far, a GIS layer of wetlands in the region has been developed. Each site has been given an identification number and where known, a name. Also, a protocol has been developed to assess the values of each site and thus enable ranking or prioritisation. The main prioritisation criteria are size, natural character, importance and distinctiveness.

The next step is to ground truth (field check) the wetlands on private land to verify boundaries and collect basic information about their condition. There are 194 wetlands to visit of which 160 are in the Wairarapa. Pest Animals staff have been asked to assist with the field surveys.

The surveys are start on the 29th May. An ecologist from Wildlands Consultants (Rotorua) has been contracted for the first 15 days of the survey. Two Masterton based Pest Animals staff will accompany the consultant to be up-skilled in wetland plant identification and assessing wetland health. It is proposed that staff survey the remaining wetlands following the 15-day induction training. There are benefits to Council in that the staff members will gain more experience in ecological surveying with the knowledge retained within Council. In addition, staff have already established relationships with occupiers which should make it easier to complete the survey.

5.7 Hutt River Catchment Possum Operation

The decision to once again postpone this operation so close to the proposed start date is frustrating for staff involved in programming and management. The postponement is a direct result of the power crisis and the need to conserve energy. Treatment of the proposed operational area would necessitate discontinuing water extraction for about a month. The supply of alternative water supplies would entail substantial use of additional pumping equipment. If the power crisis does not ease over the winter and early spring most of the planning and risk management processes will have to be repeated and contracts will need to be renegotiated.

5.8 Key Native Ecosystem Management

From 1st July 2003, an additional contractor will be employed to service KNE sites in the Kapiti Coast, Porirua City and Wellington City areas. The person is a well performed ex-Biosecurity employee so is well grounded in what is

required. The work will entail replenishing bait stations, maintaining access tracks and checking signage.

Contracts have been let for the definition and marking of routes and baitstation sites within the East Harbour KNE area. Once established, the baitstations (which will be placed at 150 metre intervals) will provide the most proficient means of possum maintenance. This matrix will also provide the platform for more integrated pest animal control focussing on mice, rats, hedgehogs, stoats, weasels, ferrets, possums and feral cats. Biosecurity staff are working closely with Landcare staff and the MIRO group. East Harbour is considered the jewel of the current KNE sites.

Bovine Tb:

5.9 Operational Plan

The 2002/03 programme to be completed is:

	Hectares
Possum control	336,349
Ferret control	22,525
Feral surveys	<u>16,664</u>
	375,538

All vector control contracts were assigned prior to the end of December 2002. However, the total operational programme has increased following recent approval for two surveys -

- 1,560 ha possum and ferret survey in the Mt Bruce – Waipoua operation; and
- 2,840 ha possum and ferret survey in the Whangaehu operation. This survey will continue into the 2003/04 financial year.

5.10 Operational Progress

Two large aerial 1080 pellet operations are in the final planning stages. Holdsworth to Woodside Crown (9,300 ha) and Featherston to Waiorongomai Crown (5,700 ha) are due to commence in May–June. Both operations have attracted comment from the various regional branches of the Deerstalkers Association.

Unfortunate delays have occurred in obtaining DoC approval. An apology was recently received from the Regional Conservator.

A recent review of the programme indicated that the majority of ground control operations will be completed within the original contract terms. A few small contracts have recently been granted time extensions.

The main potential impediments to completing the total programmes are adverse weather conditions and monitoring failures. To date, only six operational failures have occurred.

5.11 Monitoring

The following monitoring results have been reported since the end of February:

Operation	Strata	Hectares	Result	Operator
Bideford	MR 3	4,824	0.8	GW Bovine Unit
Bideford	HR 2	2,641	2.0	J McCaslin
Castlehill	HR 1	2,311	1.1	Horizons.mw
East Alfredton	MR 1	2,481	0.7	J McCaslin
East Alfredton	HR 1	2,311	0.6	J McCaslin
Featherston	HR 4	835	0.0	GW Bovine Unit
Haurangi Crown	HR 1	289	0.0	GW Bovine Unit
Haurangi Crown	MR 1	5,658	0.5	GW Bovine Unit
Holdsworth-Carterton	MR 3	1,890	0.2	GW Bovine Unit
Homewood – Riversdale	HR 3	6,183	0.8	GW Bovine Unit
Kahutara-Pirinoa	HR 1	2,392	1.0	GW Bovine Unit
Martinborough	HR 2	2,726	0.9	Trappersnz Ltd
Martinborough	MR 4	1,572	0.3	Trappersnz Ltd
Mangaroa – Kaitoke	Aerial	8,322	0.7	GW Bovine Unit
Mangaroa – Kaitoke	Cyanide	2,221	2.3	GW Bovine Unit
Mangaroa – Kaitoke	Brod / Trap	4,975	1.4	GW Bovine Unit
Mt Bruce-Waipoua	HR 1	1,883	0.2	GW Bovine Unit
Mt Bruce – Waipoua	HR 2	1,581	0.9	GW Bovine Unit
Mt Bruce-Waipoua	HR 3	1,794	0.9	GW Bovine Unit
Mt Bruce – Waipoua	HR 4	1,169	0.0	GW Bovine Unit
Otaki Buffer	HR 1	1,801	0.2	Horizons.mw
Otaki Buffer	MR 1	3,630	0.3	Horizons.mw
Ponatahi – Longbush	HR 1	4,721	0.2	Professional Guiding Service
Ponatahi-Longbush	MR 1	7,411	1.3	J McCaslin
Ruamahanga River	HR 1	1,734	0.5	GW Bovine Unit
South East Wairarapa Stage 1	MR 5	7,213	2.0	Trappers.nz Ltd
South East Wairarapa Stage 1	MR 1	6,156	0.9	Trappersnz Ltd
Stronvar	HR 2	1,519	1.6	Trappersnz Ltd
Te Wharau	HR 1	1,850	1.4	GW Bovine Unit
Te Wharau	HR 2	3,216	1.3	GW Bovine Unit
Te Wharau	HR 3	1,070	0.7	GW Bovine Unit
Te Wharau	HR 7	2,053	1.2	GW Bovine Unit
Te Wharau	MR 2	1,722	2.3	Target Pests
Te Wharau	MR 3	5,568	1.6	Target Pests
Tinui	HR 1	3,140	0.7	GW Bovine Unit
Tinui	MR 1	3,322	0.0	Professional Guiding Service
Tinui	MR 3	7,031	1.2	Professional Guiding Service
Waiorongomai	HR 1	1,255	0.2	GW Bovine Unit
Whangaehu	HR 1	4,583	0.4	J McCaslin
Whangaehu	HR 2	4,583	0.2	J McCaslin
Trend Monitors				
Bideford	MR 1	6,306	4.3	
Mt Bruce Reserve		465	9.2	
Te Wharau	MR 7	474	5.1	
Waiorongomai	MR 3a	453	1.4	

5.12 Trend Monitoring

Tenders have recently been advertised for 11 trend monitors. The monitors are scheduled to occur before the 30 June 2003. The information gained will assist with decisions on the proposed 2003/04 vector control programme.

5.13 North Island Contractors Meeting

On 29 April the annual meeting was held between a number of North Island vector control contractors, vector managers (Regional Councils), and AHB representatives. The larger North Island contractors have formed an association known as 'PestNet', providing opportunities for collective negotiation and discussion on key issues affecting their industry. The main issues traversed included:

- Tender assessment criteria and weightings
- Tender periods and contract terms
- Auditing of control and monitoring contractors
- Opportunities and impediments to 'growing' their businesses

The meeting gave opportunities for all parties to outline issues and provide suggestions for improvement. A number of recommendations were proffered by PestNet. These will be considered by vector managers and the AHB. It is anticipated that some changes can be incorporated into the 2003/04 contracts.

5.14 2003/04 Vector Control Programme

Registrations of interest for the 2003/04 vector control programme were called early in May. All contractors who have previously worked for the Council were individually notified. A notice will also appear in the Tenders Gazette and the newsletters of the North and South Island vector control contractor associations.

The Council's intention is to tender operations in three separate parcels, with all contracts finalised prior to the end of December. A closing date of 30 May 2004 will provide some flexibility for contract extensions and re-monitors.

The control programme is likely to be similar in size to the 2002/03 year.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.



Colin Wright
Divisional Manager, Wairarapa