

Report 08.135  
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Committee Catchment Management  
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## Divisional Manager's Report

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held on 7 February 2008.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

### 4. Divisional matters

#### Appointed Members

An induction session for the Committee's three new appointed members – Peter Gawith, Stewart Barton and Bernard Card was held in the Masterton office on 10 March.

Cr Ian Buchanan welcomed the new members and then senior staff made a presentation on the Committee's (and the Division's) area of responsibility.

#### Councillors visit to Wairarapa

A Councillor tour to the Wairarapa is being arranged for 7 and 8 April. The tour will commence immediately after the Council meeting to be held in the Masterton District Council offices and includes an overnight stay in Martinborough.

The tour is intended to cover a wide range of Greater Wellington activities in the Wairarapa including soil conservation works on a hill country property,

water/land intensification issues, Stoney Creek reserve, the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme and Lake Wairarapa.

### **Drought Committee**

Following requests the Chairperson, Fran Wilde, convened a well attended meeting at the Masterton office on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> March. Based on Australian definitions the drought can be classified as “significant/severe”. (See separate report in this agenda). Soil moisture levels and pasture cover have been well below average for over a year.

For a number of farmers the only real option is to slaughter stock. These farmers may need assistance to make such a decision. A wide variety of ideas were put on the table for a drought committee to consider. Even if the drought is broken by consistent rain feed will only become available 6-8 weeks following the rain. Also there will be a shortage of feed going into the winter.

An initial press release on the drought situation was released immediately after the meeting. Thereafter Anders Crofoot of Federated farmers will lead a drought committee formed at the meeting.

### **Boulcott/Hutt stopbank alignment**

The Hutt River Advisory Subcommittee meets on 13 March 2008 to consider the preferred alignment for the proposed new stopbank through the Hutt and Boulcott Golf Courses. The Committee needs to consider the two options on the table that primarily affect the Boulcott Golf Club. There are financial implications for both the Green and Boulcott Alternative options, as the estimates for both exceed the current approved budget.

It is intended that the Subcommittee’s recommendation be placed before the Catchment Committee at its meeting on 19 March for further consideration before a final recommendation is made to Council.

### **BioWorks**

BioWorks had a very productive and financially rewarding month in February. The unit made good progress with its 2007/08 contracts and achieved a healthy operating surplus. The fine settled weather certainly assisted with this result.

The units new team structure appears to be working well and we have been able to attract back several experienced staff who are contributing to the good results.

However, much work remains to be completed between now and 30 June. We have employed four fixed term/casual staff to assist the unit meet the work completion targets in the units preferred supplier agreement with the Animal Health Board.

## **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1: Departmental Managers' Report**  
**Attachment 2: Whitireia Park – Improvement to Native Vegetation**  
**Attachment 3: Financial Report**