

Report 08.386
Date 4 June 2008
File WO/03/40/10

Committee Catchment Management
Author Dave Cameron, Manager, Land Management

Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee meeting updates

1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the outcomes from the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee meetings held on 4 March 2008 and 5 May 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 Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee (WHCAC) was set up in October 2007. It has met on four occasions since that date. This report summarises the outcomes from the last two meetings of the Committee. The minutes from both the 4 March and 5 May meetings are attached.

4. Comment

Key outcomes from the meeting held 4 March 2008;

- Following presentations from local advisory services on communication options for WHCAC, it was proposed that a Communications Strategy be drafted by staff.
- Wayne O'Donnell, Manager Biosecurity gave a presentation on future Possum and Predator Control from 2008 onwards. This proposed programme results from the AHB rollback in parts of the region from 2009. Members of the Committee strongly supported ongoing control measures.

Key outcomes from the meeting held 5 May 2008;

- That a submission on the proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy be prepared and forwarded on behalf of WHCAC. The focus of the submission was on the eradication of animal pests i.e. possums and mustelids, and plant pests i.e. Old Mans Beard and gorse.
- That a submission on the draft Regional Policy Statement be prepared and circulated for comment.
- The application for funding under MAF's Hill Country Erosion programme received further support. Letters in support of the application will come from WHCAC and Wairarapa Federated Farmers.
- WHCAC is to meet on 9 June to make preparations for attending the Council meeting on 10 June where the request for Greater Wellington's funding contribution to the HCE programme is on the agenda.

6. Communications

The development of a communications strategy will provide the framework for future communications from WHCAC to its stakeholders. To date communications have related to background information on the activities and priorities for WHCAC, and an article on the successful Farm Environment Field Day held in May.

7. Recommendation

That the Committee

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

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

Dave Cameron
Manager, Land Management

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager,
Catchment Management

Attachment 1 - WHCAC Minutes 4 March 2008
Attachment 2 - WHCAC Minutes 5 May 2008