



Report 09.174  
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Committee Council  
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## Report of the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 25 March 2009

### 1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting that took place at the Te Marua Water Treatment Plant on 25 March 2009.

### 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. Divisional Manager's report

Mr Kennedy reported that at a recent meeting with the Hutt City Council our approach to algae growth, the use of the Kaitoke weir, and the dynamics of the Hutt River and the Waiwhetu aquifer was well received.

In addition, he noted that water consumption is estimated at 3% down on last year some of which may be caused from a reduced level of economic activity.

The level of security for our water systems is presently being reviewed to ensure that the present standard, n-1 is appropriate. That is, should a significant infrastructure item fail another is capable of being mobilised quickly, and sufficient to keep the water supply operating with minimal interruption.

An audit of our quality systems and certification to ISO 9002 and 14002 has been completed. In response to a question concerning such a system's operating costs, Mr Laidlaw advised that approximately two staff members are engaged. This work focuses on the reliability of the system and some 100 internal audits are carried out during the year to ensure that we meet and better the Ministry of Health standards for drinking water.

Mr Kennedy advised that a design review of the Stuart Macaskill Lakes revealed that the lakes do not meet the latest earthquake best practice design and some remedial work on the embankments is being considered. Further, such works can be contained in the budget to raise the maximum level of the lakes.

Mr Waititi reported that the leases for farming at the parks are soon to be renewed and these leases will be revised to reflect best environmental sustainable practice with a total catchment management philosophy. A sustainable land management plan is presently being developed for the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and this model will be applied to other parks progressively. Each management plan is constructed over a four to six month period. Such plans are expected to be completed fully within 18 months. There was some discussion regarding livestock and sediment entering various waterways.

A survey which underpins the *Parks Network strategy* has kicked off. The survey covers 1,000 respondents and the results and findings will be available within eight weeks. Interested groups also have an opportunity to provide information with meetings planned over April.

Mr Waititi updated the meeting of the recent developments at the Rimutaka toilets and cafe.

Mrs Cox reported that the water saving advertising campaign had been suspended earlier than planned because of the wetter than expected summer. A survey of peoples' perception of conserving water will be conducted in three months time. The Regional Outdoors Programme has attracted around 14,000 people, and of these some 3,000 attended GW organised events.

Councillor Bruce commented that the World Water Day had some underlying support from informal groups in spite of the poor weather on the day. A report will be provided at the Committee's next meeting.

Mr Laidlow updated the meeting of some delays and changes to the capital expenditure projects. The delivery of some equipment from overseas has delayed the Te Marua hydro-chlorite project. The Whitehead Road Pumping Station is on hold. Mr Kennedy will meet with the WCC infrastructure Manager and resolve the Whitehead Road issue.

Mr Corry advised that the Kaitoke weir resource consent application would be subject to a public notification process with independent commissioners.

#### **4. Parks, Forests and Reserves Bylaw**

Councillors, in general discussion indicated that they were comfortable with the process to change the Bylaw and confirmed that the recommended changes were acceptable. Accordingly, the Bylaw was adopted without any additional amendment.

## 5. Wellington Regional Strategy update

Ms McGregor presented a powerpoint display focusing on the development of Genuine Progress Indicators (GPI), Regional Broadband and Regional open space. In the discussion that followed Councillors sought clarification of the GPI and how the terms reliable and repeatable were defined. Also, there was a request to include numeracy and literacy as a measure as part of a prosperous community. An additional Tangata whenua specific indicator (the number of marae in the Region) was requested to be included in the GPIs.

The concept, Open Spaces in the Region has been defined and provides a first step towards identifying a regional open space network as part of the Regional Open Space Strategy. This concept is intended to be integrated into the development of the parks' management plans.

## 6. Priority energy work programme actions

Mr Corry outlined the status of some of the ongoing sustainable energy initiatives. In particular, a productive relationship with the ECCA has been established and Greater Wellington has an opportunity to play a pivotal role in domestic insulation and air tightness. Mention was made of the potential that marine and tidal energy offers. The Cook Strait and Makara areas tidal resource is a candidate for generating electricity sometime in the future. In discussion, Councillors recognised that the Council is in a position to facilitate a framework for an ordered development of this resource. This of course, needs to include foreshore and seabed issues in which iwi have an interest. However, the possible use of this resource is at an early stage.

## 7. Electricity supply agreement tender options

Mr Laidlaw commented on an electricity purchasing strategy.

## 8. Recommendations

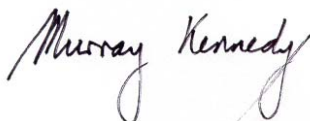
*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:

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Committee

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