



Report 09.176
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Committee Council
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Management

Report on the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 6 May 2009

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regulatory Committee that took place on 6 May 2009.

2. Reports

2.1 Divisional Managers report

Councillor Baber provided an overview to the Committee of the Greater Wellington presentation made to the Select Committee hearing on the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Bill. The presentation emphasised the key points made in the formal Greater Wellington submission on the Amendment Bill around non-complying activities, various process issues around consenting, proposed changes to designations and further submissions.

In discussion around the recent installation of two tide gauges in Porirua Harbour by the Monitoring and Investigations Department to assist bathymetric survey work being undertaken by Porirua City, the regional significance of the Porirua Harbour and Pauatahanui Inlet was stressed by Councillors. There was a wide ranging discussion about Greater Wellington's involvement in the management of the Porirua Harbour catchment, where it was noted that around \$650,000 is invested annually, and the future role of Greater Wellington in the development of the Porirua Harbour Strategy which is currently being developed. Councillors noted that Porirua City Council had made a submission on Greater Wellington's LTCCP, and that a large part of that submission was focused on the Porirua Harbour and Pauatahanui was agreed this issue would be the subject of further debate as a part of this LTCCP process.

2.2 Revision of the Navigation and Safety Bylaws Infringement Notice Regulations

As a result of the review of the Navigational and Safety Bylaws in February of this year, there are consequential changes to the Wellington Regional Navigation Regulations which enable authorised officers to issue infringement notices for breaches of the Bylaws. The Committee resolved to recommend to Council that a request be made to the Department of Internal Affairs to endorse the regulations and associated infringement fines, as is required under the Local Government Act.

The Bylaws and associated regulations come into force on 1 July 2009.

2.3 Overview of instream flow investigations for Wairarapa Streams

A report updating progress with investigations into minimum flows for Wairarapa Streams was presented to the Committee. The development of knowledge of flow requirements to protect instream values (such as ecological, recreational and Maori cultural values) is vital for the effective and sustainable management of the regions freshwater resources, and for developing robust information to inform the review of our regional plans. An internal review of our priorities for instream flow assessments took place in 2007, and this led to a number of Wairarapa rivers and streams being classified as 'high risk' in relation to the possibility of water abstraction having an adverse effect on instream values.

The report presented to the Committee highlighted the findings of the first of these completed study relating to the Otukura Stream, and progress in the study on the Papawai Stream. In the case of the Otukura, it was found that instream values were degraded due to poor water quality, extreme low flows and a high degree of channel modification. A minimum flow of 95ls has been recommended for inclusion in the Freshwater Plan. The Otukura report has been sent to the Department of Conservation, Ngati Kahungunu and Rangitaane o Wairarapa, and Fish and Game and other interested stakeholder groups. Our instream flow assessment work will be ongoing in the next 2-3 years in particular as we go through our plan review process.

3. Regular reporting

Regular summary reports on decisions on non-notified resource consent applications, pollution control incidents, and the Council's input into city and district planning were also provided. This information is readily available on the Council's website to ensure public accessibility of the information.

4. Unconfirmed minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the committee meeting are attached as *Attachment 1*.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. Receives the report; and*
- 2. Notes the contents.*

Report approved by:

Report prepared by:



Sally Baber
Chair,
Regulatory Committee

Nigel Corry
Divisional Manager,
Environment Management

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes