



Report 10.135  
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Committee Council  
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## Report on the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 17 March 2010

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee that took place at Greater Wellington's Wellington offices on 17 March 2010.

### 2. Future of duck shooting in the Parangarahu Block, East Harbour Regional Park

In discussion, Councillors questioned whether the Council was required to "endorse" a recent decision by Port Nicholson Block Settlement trust (PNBST) to cease duck shooting at the Parangarahu Block (previously referred to as the "Lakes Block"). The Council does not own the land nor does it have a role in the making of such a decision. Further, there has not been any feedback or information available that outlined the concerns of anyone effected. However, Councillors agreed that they did not have any objections in principle to PNBSTs decision.

### 3. Regional waste consultations

Geoff Skene outlined the *Regional waste assessment and waste minimisation plan* and the work undertaken to date. Initially, a region-wide assessment of waste flows, modelling of existing facilities and waste streams is planned. Such an exercise is expected to take between two and three months to complete. This will be followed by the region's councils considering the assessment and potentially agreeing to regional targets to minimise waste streams and any diversions. It was agreed that the Council should support initiatives designed to enhance a region-wide approach to waste issues.

### 4. Future of houses at Baring Head

Murray Waititi spoke to this report. Since 1992, the Council has held two houses at the Baring Head lighthouse reserve. These houses have not been

used for any park purpose and have become uneconomic to maintain. Accordingly, the disposal of these houses is a preferred option. Alan McKenzie from DoC, explained that these houses could be put to use when the *Big Coast* walk had been developed. However, DoC does not have any immediate resources to take over the houses. After discussion, Councillors agreed to remove the houses from the site and to dispose of them appropriately.

## **5. Reserving of Battle Hill native bush remnant**

After a brief discussion, Councillors agreed to set aside a native bush remnant (around 33 hectares) at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

## **6. Water Regionalisation**

Murray Kennedy spoke to the PwC report which examined the issues and merits of Porirua City Council and the Greater Wellington Water Group joining Capacity, or to form a new water management entity. In discussion, Councillors articulated a view that the benefits from moving to a Capacity business model were not sufficient, particularly, as the existing water networks and assets remain with their respective Council owners. More substantive benefits will only be realised with water networks and activities integrated fully.

## **7. Group Report for period ended 28 February 2010**

Murray Kennedy advised Councillors that the new RES contract had been agreed and was in the process of being signed by all parties. This would take some time to complete because signatories are required from Australia and the United Kingdom.

Alan McKenzie briefed the Committee about the fire at Whitireia Park and DoC and the community plans to replace and restore the vegetation lost.

In response to a query regarding mini hydro-electric generators Councillors were advised that the two generators at the Te Marua Water Treatment Plant are performing well and a saving in the order of \$80,000 pa was anticipated. In addition, some energy network costs are expected to reduce.

Amanda Cox advised that the map that shows a cycleway from Upper Hutt to Paekakariki will be revised before this is re-published.

## **8. Public participation**

Mr Barry Lucinsky, a representative of Silaca Glass Crushers, a business that as its name suggests crushes glass from recycled bottles, sought support from Councillors to establish a regional glass recycling depot. A new glass smelter furnace is soon to be commissioned in Auckland and there is an opportunity to recycle more glass from the Wellington region. Presently, the region's councils employ kerbside recycling schemes, with paper, plastic and glass mixed together at collection. As a result, glass can not be separated from other

recycled materials easily. In discussion, Councillors voiced their support for the initiative and will assist where they are able.

Mr Farquhar, a representative of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, spoke of the cultural and conservation importance of the Parangarahu Block and a desire to keep the lakes as they are through their conservation and management strategies. In particular, there was a need to prohibit duck shooting in the area and to restrict the introduction of any unwanted plant or animal species into the area.

## 9. Recommendations

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:



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