

Report 10.307
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Committee Catchment Management
Author David Cameron, Manager, Land Management

Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee - meeting update

1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee meeting held on 3 May 2010.

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) met on 3 May 2010 to consider matters relating to the Horizons' Regional Council One Plan, Climate Change scenarios for Greater Wellington, and an update on Afforestation Grant Scheme funding reductions.

Minutes from the meeting are attached.

4. Comment

Key outcomes from the 3 May meeting were:

- Helen Marr, Principal Policy Advisor for the Horizons' One Plan gave an overview of the Plan with particular reference to the consultation process, including the notification and hearings process. To date the entire process had taken six years and there was still some way to go until final approval.

The One Plan focuses on two main areas;

- Erodible hill country land
- Intensive farming in lowland areas

Four key environmental issues had been identified by the community and stakeholders;

- Surface water quality degradation
- Increasing water demand

- Unsustainable hill country land use
- Loss of biodiversity.

The One Plan proposed regulatory and non-regulatory methods with a focus on methods that would encourage responsible resource use, benefit responsible resource users and discipline irresponsible resource users.

- David Cameron gave a presentation on climate change. The presentation was based on work at NIWA and had been previously shown to Te Upoko Taiao. This presentation was for the Committee's information and gave a perspective of where Greater Wellington's risks existed especially around its statutory responsibilities as well as those that would impact on the regional community.
- An update on recent funding cuts to the Afforestation Grant Scheme was presented. The final synopsis that the original target of 25,000 hectares will be short by 10,000 hectares. This was extremely disappointing in light of the progress that had been achieved in ensuring that marginal land was being put into a more sustainable long term land use. There seems little likelihood that funding will change and the Scheme will cease in 2013.

5. Communication

The main communication issues noted were;

- Peter Gawith, Melissa Jesson and Dave Cameron to take the final version of 'stock access in waterways guidelines' to the newly formed Hinakura landowners group. This meeting has taken place and proved to be a great success with landowners most appreciative of the approach taken to resolve recent incidents involving stock access to the Pahaoa River.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1 – WHCAC Minutes 3 May 2010