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Committee Regulatory Committee
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Mangatarere Stream catchment water quality investigation

1. Purpose

To report the key findings of the recently completed Mangatarere Stream catchment water quality investigation.

2. Background

During September 2008 to October 2009 Greater Wellington's Environmental Monitoring and Investigations department carried out a targeted investigation of surface water, groundwater and soil quality in the Mangatarere catchment near Carterton. Progress on the investigation was reported to the Regulatory Committee in December last year (Report 09.707). Since December the results of the investigation have been thoroughly analysed and a technical report completed¹. This report also incorporates a review of Greater Wellington's long-term State of the Environment surface water and groundwater monitoring data collected in the Mangatarere catchment as well as monitoring information for selected resource consents exercised within the catchment (discharges associated with Reid's piggery, Carterton wastewater and dairy farms).

3. Key findings

An overview of the investigation and its key findings are presented in a summary leaflet (available at the meeting).

¹ Milne, JR, Tidswell, S, Perrie, A, Sorensen P. 2010. *Mangatarere Stream catchment water quality investigation*. Greater Wellington Publication No. GW/EMI-T-10/72.

4. Communication

Carterton District Council, Reid's piggery, Fonterra, Dairy NZ and Federated Farmers all received draft copies of the technical report for comment. These organisations, together with Wellington Fish and Game, Department of Conservation, Sustainable Wairarapa and local iwi will also receive a copy of the final report.

Given that the report is both comprehensive and technical, copies of the summary leaflet will also be made available to land owners and other interested parties (consideration is being given to circulation via the Carterton Crier). The owners of land accessed for groundwater and soil sampling have already received copies of the test results for samples taken from their properties.

5. Comment

The Mangatarere catchment investigation represents a significant piece of technical work, being one of Greater Wellington's first investigations to incorporate both groundwater and soil sampling alongside stream sampling (water quality and ecology) and flow measurement. Integrated approaches such as this are critical if we are to better understand and manage the impacts of intensive land use on ground and surface water quality.

While the investigation was specific to the Mangatarere catchment, it is likely that other catchments with intensive land uses also have similarly degraded water quality. The findings from the Mangatarere investigation therefore have significant relevance in informing the wider regional plan review process.

Although outside the scope of this particular technical investigation, it is recognised that cultural health assessments form an important part of integrated catchment monitoring and management. Greater Wellington will include a component of cultural health assessment/monitoring in future catchment investigations where this component is appropriate. Cultural health monitoring needs further consideration when Greater Wellington reviews its existing Regional Monitoring Strategy.

It would also be useful to engage community input early on in catchment investigations. The involvement of landowners is particularly important because they can provide information about local environmental conditions and management practices.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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