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Committee Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee  
Author Murray Kennedy, General Manager, Utilities and Services

## **General Manager report to the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee meeting on 16 March 2011**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

### **2. Utilities and Services Group**

#### **Wainuiomata mini-hydro project**

The turbine-generator is on-route and is scheduled to arrive at Port of Auckland on 15 March. The generator building is nearing completion and pipework modifications are on programme for installation of the generator during April.

#### **Water Supply**

Over the last three months there has been some use of the Stuart Macaskill Lakes. The minimum storage volume of approximately 80% full was on 23 December, but the lakes were full again in early January. Since then the storage volume has not been below 90%.

## **Stuart Macaskill Lakes upgrade**

The contractor has completed the preliminary site works and started construction of the rock buttress.



## **Whitireia Park**

On 1 March, Greater Wellington Regional Council commenced the day to day management of Whitireia Park, as agreed with Department of Conservation. From 1 March GW officers will be undertaking normal Park functions within the Park including maintenance, enforcement, responding to public enquiries and managing community and volunteer groups.

As the Park itself is vested in the Park Board as opposed to GWRC, the powers that enable GW officers to be the day-to-day managers of the park can only be granted by the appropriate resolutions being made by the Park Board. Enforcement powers on the Park will also require Board resolution, together with approval from the Minister of Conservation. It is anticipated that the existing Board will make the required resolutions at its next Board meeting (by end March 2011).

It was anticipated that these powers would have been granted by now. As a transition arrangement, GW officers will be acting as agents of Department of Conservation until such time as the Park Board makes the appropriate resolutions.

## **Baring Head**

Baring Head was formally opened to the public on Sunday 13 February. Over 250 people attended throughout the day, with 120 on the guided walks. 152 people used the organised bus service to visit the area.

## **Public Participation: Committee Meeting on 2 February**

A number of issues were raised in Public Participation and matters discussed at the 2 February meeting of the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee. These issues and matters, and the action planned or already underway, cover:

- Installed cost of rainwater tanks. Detailed cost estimates are being obtained for the purchase and retro-fitting of a rainwater tank for toilet flushing and outdoor use with mains water top-up, for both an uncomplicated installation, and an installation with restricted access and requiring site work.
- Peer review of the report and model. MWH NZ Ltd has been commissioned to review the assumptions used in the modelling, including the consumption of water for toilet flushing and outdoor use. The computer model is the intellectual property of consultants Harrison Grierson Ltd, which has confirmed that the model was reviewed and checked within their company at each stage of development in accordance with their quality assurance processes.
- Rainwater consumption based on BRANZ Auckland water use study. The validity of the figures used during the year for toilet flushing and outdoor use is a key aspect of the MWH review of assumptions identified above.
- Single person household. The Committee's request to carry out an analysis of rainwater tank performance for a single person household is underway.
- Use of rainwater for laundry and shower. Rainwater should only be used after chemical and biological disinfection if there is a risk of potable use or cross contamination. This includes rainwater for laundry, showers or bathing. A water supply system separate from or replacing the mains supply is required. This adds considerable additional cost for installation and operation, particularly for retrofitted installations. No further investigation of this option is planned.
- Analysis without water for toilet flushing. This will be carried out as part of the modelling of rainwater tanks for emergency storage.
- Use of smaller rainwater tanks. Tank sizes up to 2,000 litres approximately will be investigated as part of the modelling for emergency storage.

## **Civil Defence and Emergency Management**

The Wellington Region CDEM Group has been actively supporting the national response to the February 22nd Canterbury Earthquake. Initially the Wellington region was tasked with providing welfare support for over 1000 international evacuees. A welfare centre was established at Toi Poneke (in

Wellington City) to assess the evacuees needs and Pipitea Marae was utilised to provide accommodation and meals.

The demand for this service has significantly decreased, so a Recovery Centre has now been established to provide support to any persons leaving Christchurch for Wellington. In addition to this, a large number of trained staff (both volunteer and emergency management staff) have been supporting the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC), often taking on "desk" management roles. This support will be ongoing.

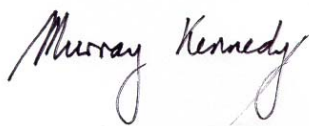
A substantial number of staff from councils have been deployed to Christchurch in support. Four Response Teams, 33 building officers, four water/wastewater engineers, 16 water/wastewater repair staff, a welfare team and an EOC Welfare Manager. The response will begin moving towards the recovery phase over the next week and planning is currently underway to determine how we can continue to provide support to Canterbury.

### **3. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'K'.

**Murray Kennedy**  
General Manager, Utilities and Services