

Report 11.208  
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Committee Council  
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## Report on the Environmental Wellbeing Committee Meeting held on 3 May 2011

### 1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Environmental Wellbeing Committee that took place on 3 May 2011.

### 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. Report

Dave Cameron reported on soil stability across the region, comparing changes from 2002 to 2010. Soil stability reflects the intactness and disturbance of the regions soils as exhibited on digital orthophotos. Approximately 2,000 photo reference points were analysed to determine changes.

Some of the key changes included:

- 2.6% decrease in drystock farming
- 1.7% increase in exotic forestry
- 0.7% increase in dairying
- 0.3% increase in horticulture and or cropping

With regards to the impacts of soil conservation measures, it was noted that up to 8,900 hectares of pasture land has been converted since 2002 to a long term sustainable use by either planting or reversion. However, the analysis confirmed that approximately 214,300 hectares of drystock pasture remains

erosion prone. Around 89,300 hectares of this total needs some form of soil conservation treatment to secure the asset. Councillors will be aware that our Wellington Erosion Control Initiative is focused on these highly erodible areas, with five priority catchments selected for intensive soil management programmes.

The General Managers report highlighted the following issues: responsibilities for freshwater biosecurity; proposed changes to the Wildlife Act for Canada Goose; the development of a new vertebrate pest toxin; an update on BioWorks contract progress and the potential expansion of the Akura Conservation Centre. Harbours reported on the opening of the Beacon Hill Signal Station and recent damage to the Kings Wharf navigation light.

#### **4. Workshop**

A workshop followed the committee meeting covering the proposed Regional Biodiversity Strategy. Tim Porteous, Manager, Biodiversity and Harley Spence, Strategic Biodiversity Advisor, provided an overview of the key principles that will underpin the Strategy.

#### **5. Unconfirmed minutes**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Committee's meeting are attached as **Attachment 1**.

#### **6. Recommendations**

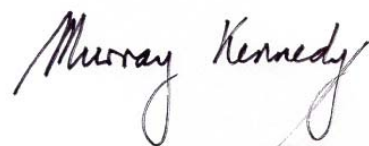
*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:



**Barbara Donaldson**  
Chair, Environmental  
Wellbeing Committee

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General Manager, Catchment  
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**Attachment 1:** Unconfirmed minutes.