

Report 11.457
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Committee Council
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Report on the Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting 6 September 2011

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Environmental Wellbeing Committee that took place on 6 September 2011.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Report

3.1 Year end review

The Committee was advised that Canadian geese are not included in the regional pest animal control programme as Greater Wellington does not have the authority to deal with them under the Regional Pest Management Strategy. Greater Wellington is engaging with Federated Farmers and the Department of Conservation on options for their management. The Committee requested a report on options for local communities to pay for local pest control, including options to purchase and distribute bio-control agents.

The Committee requested that officers provide further information on the Take Action and Take Care community environmental projects, including how these projects align with the EnviroSchools programme. Caleb Royal asked for information on how these programmes reached Māori schools.

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager Catchment Management, advised that for rooks the focus is on eradication from the region. Staff are working closely with northern regional councils to synchronise control programmes.

3.2 Forestry Annual Report and Proposals

The Committee sought clarification about how the Emissions Trading Scheme units are applied to the two classes of forests; pre 1990 and post 1989. Pre 1990 is a hectare based government grant and post 1989 is an actual carbon sequestration. The decision on whether to sell or hold ETS units for post 1989 forests is a Council decision.

3.3 Regional Pest Management Strategy: Operational Plan 2011/12

The Committee noted the high quality of the Plan. Dealing with aquatic pest plants in streams continues to be a major issue. Councillors discussed the benefit of an integrated approach for managing aquatic pests that incorporates flood protection operations and emphasises public awareness and managing control options. Officers will consider the possibility of reinvigorating engagement programmes from previous years that were aimed at contractors and commercial eelers. Educations programmes for Greater Wellington field staff will also be considered.

3.4 Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative Annual Report 2011

Year Two of the WRECI programme has been successfully completed. Funding for this programme is secure for two more years. Dave Cameron, Manager, Land Management, advised the Committee that funding beyond this time is uncertain. Central government funding decisions are likely to be made after the election. The meeting noted that if the government's funding framework changed, there will be implications for how Greater Wellington's erosion control programmes are funded in the future.

3.5 Akura Conservation Centre Review for the Year to 30 June 2011

The Committee considered the 2010/11 financial statements for the Akura Conservation Centre, which has performed well. The implications for the Centre of potential government decisions on erosion control funding were discussed. The committee requested a report on expansion options for Akura if Crown funding for WRECI was withdrawn, including opportunities to centralise nursery activities, sell Mangapakeha nursery and sell trees to other regional councils.

3.6 Harbour Safety Management System (SMS) update

The Committee discussed the measures taken in response to the recommendations contained in the Wellington Harbour Port and Harbour Marine Safety Code Navigational Risk Assessment 2005. Following Council approval of the SMS, Maritime NZ will audit/approve the document.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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