



Report 12.100  
Date 13 March 2012  
File E/11/02/04

Committee Environmental Wellbeing Committee  
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## Report on Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting of 13 March 2012

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Environmental Wellbeing Committee that took place on 13 March 2012.

### 2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 Quarterly review for the period ending 31 December 2011

The Committee noted that the reduced government resources will have implications for pest management in the Wellington region. For example, DoC has reduced the pest control area in the Tararua Ranges to 30,000 hectares. Greater Wellington anticipates an increased concern from the public about pest animals and pest plants. Some of the implications of potential reductions in resourcing will be discussed in the April workshop to consider the Biodiversity Operational Plan.

The Committee raised concern about the presence of gorse in the QE II Park. Officials have met with the Friends of the QE II Park Group to discuss the option of aerial spraying of the gorse in the Park and will keep the Committee updated on whether this will occur. The Committee noted the success of aerial spraying in Whitireia Park where there are very few signs of gorse re-growth following the first phase of Greater Wellington's gorse control operation.

The Committee questioned the nature of the concern at the high mouse numbers on the Wainuiomata Mainland Island. Officers advised that compared to possums and rats, mice are a nuisance pest that pose a relatively minor risk to native plants and birds.

The Committee commended the quality of Greater Wellington's presentation about land management and flood protection at the Wairarapa combined councils' meeting in Greytown on 12 March 2012.

The Committee questioned the forecasts in Attachment 3 for the smaller forestry markets of Korea, Taiwan and Philippines. Clarification of this information will be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

### **3.2 General Managers' Report to the Environmental Wellbeing Committee**

The Committee was updated on the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands project, which will receive \$1million over the next two years from the Government's Fresh Start for Freshwater Cleanup Fund.

Lake Wairarapa, Lake Onoke and their surrounding wetlands (collectively known as Wairarapa Moana) have degraded water quality, with high concentrations of nutrients and algae, and poor water clarity. The new funds will be focussed mainly on the eastern shore of Lake Wairarapa and is aimed at reducing nutrient runoff from intensively farmed areas, enhancing existing wetlands and removing pests.

## **4. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:



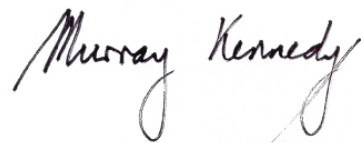
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