

Report 12.437
Date 11 September 2012
File E/11/02/04

Committee Council
Author Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment
Management

Report on the Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting 11 September 2012

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Environmental Wellbeing Committee that took place on 11 September 2012.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Report

3.1 Regional Pest Management Strategy: Operational Plan 2012/13

The Committee approved the Operational Plan 2012/13 (the Plan) for the Regional Pest Management Strategy. The objective of the Plan is to minimise adverse effects of pests on the environment, economy and communities, and to maximise the effectiveness of regional co-ordinated pest management. Biosecurity staff will continue to work with Territorial Authorities in the region as well as other regional councils and government departments to carry out their objectives.

A report on performance as measured against the objectives in the Plan will be presented to the next Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting.

3.2 Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative Annual Review 2012

The Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative has completed its third year of the programme. Greater Wellington's Land Management team works with land owners to manage soil erosion through the creation of farm plans and by providing advice and grants. A report showing the change in the Whareama Catchment which was one of the first areas to be selected for the programme is to be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

3.3 Akura Conservation Centre Review for the year to 30 June 2012

The Committee received an update on the performance of the Akura Conservation Centre (Akura). Akura grows and sells trees that are suitable for erosion control and other land management and flood protection activities. Akura's operation performance increased by seven percent on the previous year as well as there being a marked increase in operational surplus.

3.4 Wairarapa Rivers – Scheme Reviews to Floodplain Management Plans (FMPs)

Flood Protection officers gave a presentation on the development of a Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the Upper Wairarapa Valley. Creating a FMP for the Upper Wairarapa Valley will help to achieve consistency in managing the region's rivers and floodplains as well as giving broader representation and consultation opportunities. The Flood Protection department is working towards a December 2015 completion and adaption date for the Upper Valley FMP.

The Committee endorsed further work by officers on establishing an Upper Valley Floodplain Management Subcommittee (the Subcommittee). The Committee noted that this Subcommittee will be a transitional operational committee. Potential future changes to committee structures may arise following the formation of zone or whitua Committees.

The Subcommittee will report to the Environmental Wellbeing committee. Current scheme advisory committees will continue to operate as normal to manage existing works.

3.5 Year end review for period ending 30 June 2012

The year end review provided an overview of the quarterly activities for the areas of Committee responsibility. The Committee noted that the Lower North Island Partnership (GW, DoC, Horizons, HBRC) project has recently put together an action plan for approval.

The Committee discussed the Porirua Harbour Project that is being developed for the whole of the estuary and which will identify actions and 'work units' for both Greater Wellington and community groups to undertake.

The 'Take Action' education programme in schools has ceased and the Committee noted that this was not related to the 'Take Care' community projects. While the Take Care contestable fund has been disestablished, Greater Wellington will continue to honour the cycle of funding agreements already in place.

3.6 General Managers' report

The Committee discussed the General Managers' report and in particular the item on the error made by a Biodiversity staff member resulting in the destruction of native trees at Rangitatau Reserve. An apology was issued and the department is still working through the issues with the community. Greater

Wellington will not be involved in any future work on this site as it does not meet the regionally significant criteria.

Greater Wellington is working with Fonterra to ensure that Fonterra's new joint environmental protocol with the fertiliser industry aligns with Greater Wellington's programmes. The new protocol will focus on managing nitrogen levels in soil and is a more collaborative approach to engaging with landowners.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager, Catchment
Management

Barbara Donaldson
Chair