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Committee Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee
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General Managers' report to the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee on 10 September 2013

1. Purpose

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

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Water Supply

The upgrade of Stuart Macaskill lake 1 is almost complete and filling commenced on 14 August. At the time of writing the lake level is 70% full and is expected to be 100% full by the end of September.

4. Environment Management

Parks and Recreation

All areas in the parks are now open, following repairs after the mid-winter storms that hit Wellington. The most significant works included bank reinstatement on the Wainui Stream in Queen Elizabeth Park, arborist work in the Korokoro Valley and removal of the boardwalk and vegetation clearance in the Gollans Stream wetlands.

Discussions have commenced with the Department of Conservation, the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park and the Guardians of Whareroa on the requirements for a possible joint farming lease for the two areas. Once these are agreed, we intend to work with a farm consultant to estimate the likely returns to Council should farming remain as a land management tool on the

park. This information will then be brought to Council for a decision in early 2014.

5. People and Capability

Household Water Tanks

Following a major earthquake, large areas of the Wellington region would be without water for up to several months (Wellington Lifelines Report 2012). Ensuring that the region's residents have access to water will be a major focus of the response effort. Accordingly Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) looked for a way how individual households could store water, which was both easy and affordable. Our solution was a 200 litre water tank and rainwater collection kit.

After an extensive tender process, WREMO partnered with a New Zealand manufacturer (the Tank Guy, based out of Ashhurst) to sell a complete rainwater tank package for only \$105 including GST. The water tanks are being sold by the district and city councils around the region.

The \$105 package includes a 200 litre tank, lid, diverter kit, brass taps, bungs, hooks and restraining strap. The tanks are easy to install, designed to stack and are portable, fitting into most cars. The 200 litre size means that the tanks are discrete, and can either be filled with tap water or connected to downpipes for collection of rain water if reticulated water supplies are disrupted.

Several of the councils (including Hutt City Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Wellington City Council and Upper Hutt City Council) have now taken direct management of their stocks and are ordering direct from the manufacturer without WREMO coordination.

The water tanks went on sale to the public on 22 July, and over 1500 tanks have been sold in the first five weeks (approximately 1.25% of the households in the region) – a good effort for only 5 weeks. With the continued support of the councils we can improve this statistic and make households and the region considerably more resilient should water supply be disrupted.

Considerable interest in the project has been expressed by other Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups, and this may lead to further sales outside the region.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee

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

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