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Committee Council  
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## Report on Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting, 26 March 2014

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Council of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee (the Committee) meeting of 26 March 2014.

### 2. Public presentation

Tony Smith spoke to item 4 on the agenda – Quarterly review for the year ended 31 December 2013.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 Quarterly review for the year ended 31 December 2013

The Committee discussed the Quarterly review for the year ended 31 December 2013. It was acknowledged that there is a desire for future Quarterly reports to clearly identify critical risks affecting each Department.

The Committee discussed consented compliance monitoring for the period, in particular Masterton District Council's (MDC) wastewater treatment plant upgrade. Two significant stages of progress occurred for the Masterton wastewater treatment plant upgrade; the commencement of dewatering and desludging of the old oxidation ponds in October 2013, and commencement of the discharge of wastewater to land via the border strip irrigation scheme in November 2013. The Committee noted that in developing the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project, MDC acknowledged the significance of eels to Māori. The first stage of the project included the trapping and transfer of shortfinned eels at the Homebush wastewater treatment pond after it became evident that the eels would not migrate themselves. 24 tonnes of eels were relocated over the period of two months, and the Committee recognised this approach as something to consider in future compliance monitoring of similar plant upgrades.

The Committee discussed work undertaken by the Environmental Science Department during the quarter, including their work with the Flood Protection Department. Environmental Science has been working with Flood Protection to provide input and advice in relation to the potential environmental effects from a variety of routine Flood Protection and Land Management activities.

The Environmental Science Department also provides a range of technical support to the Environmental Regulation, Environmental Policy, Biodiversity, Biosecurity, Parks and Water Supply departments.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of communicating with iwi about non-notified consents relating to works being undertaken in areas of cultural importance, such as the Waiwhetu Stream.

Discussion also took place around the subject of willows versus native plants as a method of erosion control. It was agreed that a workshop for Committee members and officers from the Flood Protection and Environmental Science Departments would be scheduled to discuss this issue in more detail.

The Committee commended the creation of an Environmental Science internship with local iwi, which includes the creation of a new role; Environmental Monitoring Officer kaitiaki a iwi.

The Committee also discussed the role of the District Health Board (DHB) in the Regional Plan review process. Officers from GWRC have met with staff from the DHB to discuss the Regional Plan review, and the DHB has also provided written comments on the working draft Regional Plan document. The Committee discussed expanding this consultation with the DHB to include Committee members and the Chief Medical Officer, to enable high-level discussion around regional services provided by GWRC that are relative to the DHB, such as drinking water.

#### **4. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

#### **5. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

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