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Report to the Landcare Committee
from Andrew Annakin, Divisional Manager, Landcare

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Landcare Committee about activities and matters of interest within the Landcare Division since the last Landcare Committee meeting, 23 March 2000. Departmental activity reports are also attached.

2. Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan Non-structural Workshop, 10 April

Alistair Cross did an excellent job bringing together and presenting the non-structural measure for the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan.

Non-structural measures are the critical “other side of the coin” for the Regional Council’s proposed investment to upgrade the Hutt River flood defences - the structural measures. This fundamental link was reinforced in the Hutt River Design Standard recommendations approved at the 9 December Policy and Finance Committee; now in the Long-term Financial Strategy consultative material.

It is very important that the community, and ultimately territorial authorities through District Plans, understand the limitations of physical protection against flooding and the other precautions and advisable land use measures necessary to manage the “residual risk”. The workshop provided a useful forum for officers and politicians to discuss the broad issues, prior to more work on the detailed roadmap to implementation (whatever form that finally takes).

This is an area where regional and local authorities can learn from each other where jurisdictions overlap. Equally, I believe territorial authorities will have to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to realistically implementing the non-structural measures if the Regional Council is to maintain its support for enhanced structural measures.

3. **Regional Parks/Natural Forestry Integration**

Susan Edwards, Bruce Andrell and I presented the proposed Parks and Forests structure to Regional Parks and Natural Forestry staff, 10 April. The proposals were very well received; consultation concludes on 20 April. I circulated a copy of my memo to Landcare staff, along with the new organisational charts, in the Councillors' Bulletin. I hope to conclude the management of change process by the end of June.

4. **Kapiti Coast Flood Damage Repairs**

Brendan Paul and I met up with Steve Murphy, Garry Baker and Graeme Campbell for an inspection of the flood damage repairs and capital works on the Otaki and Waikanae Rivers.

Coupled with the previously booked capital works (Upper Rahu and Chrystalls on the Otaki, plus the recently completed Kauri Puriri works on the Waikanae), these are impressive undertakings. There are now two long stretches, over several reaches, of much improved flood protection on these rivers. The Council can be well pleased with the significant lift in protection these works represent.

Committee members have asked for a site visit. The best time will be once construction is complete, grass cover starts to take, and the works have settled from occasional freshets. Springtime is best; also for the proposed open days.

5. **Forest Lands Workshop**

We now have a date for the workshop, 23 May 2000. Dave Benham and I have discussed possible approaches and will be preparing presentation material.

Landcare staff are currently working to assist the visioning aspect - Council aspirations for the forests in 2025. We are developing a set of principles to test the Interim Forest Lands Plan against the Council's various environmental sustainability policies. This can then be the foundation to review the Forest Lands Plan, with public consultation, through 2000/01.

Of course, this also needs to be laid alongside the fiscal imperatives for forest management. Water integration issues are also material.

6. **Swear Tin**

A ninth floor morning tea conversation recently turned to ways of expanding the Divisional vocabulary. The "Swear Tin" was born! Daya Attapatu is the arbiter of style; anyone using a word they would not utter in a presentation to Councillors, must pay 20 cents to the tin. My small change jar was empty the same afternoon with a hot tab thereafter! We now communicate in short, considered sentences, with a marked absence of colourful adjectives and improper nouns. The exercise ends at Easter, a *large* morning tea is planned!

7. Recommendation

That the Divisional and Departmental reports be received and the contents noted.

ANDREW ANNAKIN
Divisional Manager, Landcare