

## **Report 00.443**

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Report to the Environment Committee  
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

### **Divisional Manager's Report**

#### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters which have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

#### **2. Managers' Reports**

The Department Managers' reports and the Divisional Accountant's report are attached.

#### **3. State of the Environment Report Award**

This Council received a Commendation for the "Best State of the Environment Report by a Local Authority" at the 2000 Annual Report Awards of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand. We were among a number of Councils who had submitted their reports this year and were delighted to be judged the best. I'd like to congratulate John Sherriff and the team of writers.

However, a newspaper report the next day said:

*"Local councils need to put more work into environmental reporting .No award was made in the council's category, because entries were not to the standard of previous years. Wellington Regional Council had the best entry, but its report needed more information. The public needed the opportunity to assess if the council's policies were working rather than relying on the Council's conclusions".*

We had taken the view that we wanted to make the document attractive and easy to read so that we could reach a wide audience. Our annual monitoring reports provide the detail – which is often of a technical nature – and the five yearly state of the environment report is a summary of these.

Coincidentally, I went to a workshop on Monday 12 June at Taranaki Regional Council which focussed on the state of the environment reports. Questions like:

*Who is the audience?, should we be reporting solely on our performance rather than the environment?, should we be reporting on the RPS and/or regional plans?, how much technical information should be reported?, should we use information collected by other agencies? Etc*

were asked.

We had identified many of these issues when we were preparing our document and made decisions about what we wanted to achieve. Clearly, there needs to be more discussion amongst regional councils. We have another five years before our next comprehensive report to think about it all!

#### 4. **Beacon Hill**

CentrePort Wellington recently carried out a Customer Survey. About half (20) of their most important customers were asked questions about the service provided by the Beacon Hill Communications Station, which is operated by this Council. I am pleased to be able to report the following findings:

“Typically, customers were satisfied with the after hours service received.

There was 100% satisfaction with *the performance of staff at Beacon Hill Signal Station* (75% satisfied and 25% very satisfied).

*“Beacon Hill staff are friendly and helpful within the limitations of the information they have on hand when they are called”.*

There was some dissatisfaction in the procedure adopted by *CentrePort Marine Services of contacting Beacon Hill Signal Station to make after hours contact with the duty pilot.”*

#### 5. **Regional Plans**

It is frustrating that we nearly have all our regional plans operative – except one. The Regional Soil Plan is currently with the Environment Court waiting for the two final consent orders to be processed. We have also asked the High Court to hear our application to strike out Mr Riddiford’s appeal.

#### 6. **General**

As this is the last meeting of the financial year, I would like to thank staff and Councillors for their hard work and commitment. In the next financial year we are looking forward to progressing all three segments of the environmental education work, cementing the “ecosystem” approach into the Council’s work, hardening up on compliance monitoring, improving our monitoring programmes, getting the Emergency Management Group up and running successfully and completing our harbour bylaws – among other things.

## 7. **Recommendation**

*That the reports from the Divisional Manager, the Departmental Managers and the Divisional Accountant be received.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachments