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Report to the Environment Committee
from Jo Campbell, Environmental Education Co-ordinator

Learnwell Implementation Plan

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of progress on the development of the Learnwell programme and to set out an implementation plan for its development to June 2002.

2. Background

Learnwell is the schools component of the Environmental Education and Communication Strategy. The strategy aims to raise awareness about the environment, identify the benefits of good environmental practice and provide people with the tools to change their behaviour. Other parts of the strategy are the Community Connections (care group) programme and the Business Bridges programme.

3. The Learnwell Programme

The Learnwell programme aims to create a hands-on, and locally relevant education experience that will equip 8-12 year olds with the awareness, attitude and skills to use the resources of the Wellington Region in an environmentally responsible manner.

Learnwell will include:

- A hands-on education trail exploring water quality and conservation
- A teaching unit and accompanying resource kit to support the trail
- A web site
- A mobile facility
- A water audit and 'Adopt-a-tap' programme
- An Adopt-a-stream programme

The implementation plan attached provides details of what is involved in each component of the Learnwell programme and sets a timeframe for its implementation.

The plan will be used to direct the project over the next two financial years. Progress on Learnwell will be reported to the Committee on a regular basis.

4. **Progress in Implementing the Programme**

We have been working on Learnwell since the start of the year and have taken a number of steps towards clarifying and implementing the programme. Successful developments thus far include:

- The creation and operation of a teacher's Focus Group to set the direction of the programme and to ensure that it meets the needs of the target audience;
- Developing the educational content of Learnwell (e.g., trail activities and content of the teachers' resource kit) through the direct involvement of 150 children and their teachers at school and in the regional parks;
- The initial design of activities, a board game on stormwater pollution, and ideas for a website by the Naenae Intermediate Venture Class;
- Identifying common interests and objectives with the Water Group to ensure the water conservation message is integrated throughout the programme;
- Working with the Landcare Division to determine the potential of regional parks and related facilities to provide "base" sites for the Learnwell trail;
- An initial assessment of the risk management procedures which will be required to run the programme safely;
- Early work on the ways of evaluating the effectiveness of our programme; and
- Planning and development of the web site, 'Adopt-a-stream', and mobile facility.

5. **Communications**

As this report is essentially a planning document for the internal use of the Council, it is not recommended that any special communication of its contents be made. As the programme develops, however, it will become desirable and beneficial to raise the profile of this new direction for the Council. This will be developed through the communications mechanism identified within the Implementation Plan.

6. **Recommendations**

That the report be received and the contents noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

JO CAMPBELL
Environmental Education Co-ordinator

GEOFF SKENE
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments: 1