THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Report to Environment Committee
from Geoff Skene, Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environmental Education Annual Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of progress in implementing the Department's environmental education programmes during the 2000/01 financial year.

2. Background

This is the first annual report on progress in implementing the Council's environmental education initiatives. The report records progress towards achieving Annual Plan performance indicators for the community Care Group, Learnwell, Adopt-a-stream, and Business Bridges programmes. The report complements other reports on this which have come before the Committee throughout the year (and also the Learnwell Implementation Plan which the Committee saw in June 2000) and my six weekly Manager's reports.

3. New Names for Programmes

As I explained at the recent Policy and Finance presentation, the names for the programmes have changed. We have put together an integrated set of programmes with names and profiles that will appeal to our target audiences, based on market research and our experience with schools and businesses. The new names are used in the attached report. The changes are:

- Community environmental care programme – has become *Take Care*
- Learnwell (schools programme) – has become *Take Action*
- Business Bridges – has become *Take Charge*
- The Adopt-a-stream programme has been partially incorporated within *Take Action* (for primary schools) and for secondary schools goes under the name of *Stream Sense.*

The reasons for these changes are explained in the attachment.

4. **A Year of Achievement**

In the first full year of the environmental education programmes a considerable amount has been achieved. In some areas (particularly with the schools programme) we are in advance of the project timetable set at the start of the year. Key outcomes achieved in this financial year are:

- 15 community groups helping to restore stream, wetland, and coastal areas through *Take Care*;
- Community restoration network set up in the western part of the Region.
- *Take Action* 4 week teaching unit designed with teachers, tested, re-designed, re-tested and completed. Web-site nearing completion;
- *Take Action* river sites chosen & made safe, construction underway. Teacher and take-home resources printed;
- Adopt-a-stream programme reformulated and included within *Take Action.* Resources completed for both primary and secondary schools; and
- *Take Charge* pollution control programme developed & tested, and resource kit completed.

These points are more fully explained in the attached report.

5. **Appreciation**

With the year drawing to a close I would like to thank all of the staff involved in the programmes described in this report for their extremely hard work throughout the year and commitment to the cause. This work has often been done in the weekends and at night, in good weather and bad, either to hold public meetings or to run planting days for the community, or to meet deadlines set to get our educational programmes working in the community as quickly as possible.

6. **Communication**

As this report provides a summary of actions achieved through the year, rather than any new initiatives, it is not necessary at this stage to undertake any communications. However, the *Take Action* programme will soon be marketed to all schools in the Region to secure booking for the start in February 2002. A full launch and promotional exercise will be devised for this programme and for *Take Charge* in due course. The availability of funding under the *Take Care* programme will also be advertised in July.

7.   **Recommendation**

> *That the Committee accepts the Report as evidence of the Council's implementation of its environmental education programmes for 2000/01.*

Report prepared by:

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Approved for submission

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Attachment: 1 (one)