



caring about you & your environment

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Report to 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 that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Department Managers' reports, along with the report from the Divisional Accountant, are attached.

3. New Zealand Planning Institute Conference 2001

The programme for this year's conference is attached. There is a special programme for Councillors at the beginning of this conference.

In the relatively recent past we have not attended this conference. However, Cr Allen went last year and found it both useful and interesting.

It will be held in Tauranga from 15-17 March.

The Committee may wish to consider whether the Council sends a representative to this conference.

4. "Information to Motivation" State of the Environment Conference

Attached is the preliminary information about this conference that is to be held at Te Papa from 5-7 June.

The subject matter is very relevant to the Environment Division. One of our priorities for the rest of this year, and certainly next year, is to improve the way in which we disseminate information to the public. We need to get information about our Region's environment across so people are motivated to take responsibility for environmental quality and take action.

This conference has come about after a number of informal conversations with the Minister and the Ministry for the Environment. Consequently, I have agreed to provide some sponsorship (\$15,000) which will come from our environmental monitoring budget.

I am forever saying that it is pointless for this Council to carry out environmental research and investigations unless we are able to communicate our findings to the public. We cannot maintain or improve environmental quality ourselves; we need the community on our side.

I am on the organising committee for the conference. I hope it will provide us with some ideas about how we can raise awareness about environmental quality and motivate change.

5. **Fire-fighting**

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Rian van Schalkwyk and Debbie Cunningham, this Council's emergency management team, for the hard work and long hours they put in to manage the response to the Silverstream fires. They, along with several other Council staff members, assisted with the response. Although this Council does not have a rural fire-fighting role, we were requested to provide assistance and were happy to help our civil defence colleagues from the territorial authorities.

6. **Quiet harbours**

All too often over the holiday period, harbour staff are busy dealing with "incidents" on the harbour. I am very pleased to report that things have been relatively quiet this year. This has enabled us to be far more proactive in making sure that water users are familiar with the new bylaws, especially the requirement to carry lifejackets.

The fast-ferry wash issue was dealt with by Captain Pryce and is mentioned in his report.

7. Recommendations

- (1) *That the reports from the Divisional Manager, the Departmental Manager and the Divisional Accountant be received.*
- (2) *That the Committee consider whether it will send a Council representative to the New Zealand Planning Institute's conference in March 2001.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachments