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**Committee** Landcare  
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## Divisional Manager's report

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting

### 2. Managers' Reports

The Departmental Managers' Reports are attached. You will notice that the Managers Reports (and the other reports on this Order Paper) include more background information than usual. We decided to include more detail because only Cr's Laidlaw and Shields are returning from that last Landcare Committee. It is also two and a half months since the Committee last met so a lot has gone on.

### 3. First Meeting of the 2004 – 2007 Landcare Committee

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of you on behalf of the staff in the Division.

For those of you who are new on the Committee I'm sure you'll find plenty to interest and challenge you over the next three years. No doubt many of you will have questions at various times. Please feel free to get in touch with myself, Murray Waititi (Manager, Parks and Forests), Geoff Dick (Manager, Flood Protection) whenever you need any information.

The next three years looks very exciting. We are planning to add two new parks to your regional park network, complete the major review of park management plans, continue the advancements in environmental management, and keep improving the facilities and services for park visitors.

Flood Protection completed Floodplain Management Plans for the Hutt, Otaki, and Waikanae Rivers a few years ago now so our emphasis is on good planning, and maintenance and construction of flood defences. The capital works programmes are well underway in all the major rivers with the Otaki and Waikanae Rivers being well ahead of schedule. It will be a big job keeping on

top of the major construction programmes in the Hutt River but we are quite excited about how it's going.

#### **4. National Flood Protection Review**

Following the February and August floods, the Government has asked its officials to look into the way New Zealand plans and administers its flood protection schemes. We have spoken with the team conducting the review and they expect to provide an initial report to Government in early December. Once we have seen the review we will be in a position to check our performance against its findings.

#### **5. Land Management Agreement**

Nearly three years ago Greater Wellington, Hutt City Council (HCC), and DoC reached agreement that Greater Wellington would formally take responsibility for managing land owned by HCC and DoC within Belmont and East Harbour Regional Parks. At that time we thought that the process would be straightforward and take only a few months to complete. Unfortunately, the legislation introduced a number of significant complications which have meant that we are only now getting to the stage where the transfer of management responsibilities can take effect. Within the next month or so we will be formally advising the Minister of Local Government that HCC wishes to delegate responsibility for managing its land to Greater Wellington. That doesn't represent the end of the process, but it is the last major step.

#### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receive the report.***
2. ***Note the contents of the report***

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1:** Departmental reports