greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Report **06.381**
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Committee **Rural Services Wairarapa Committee**
Author **Ted Taylor, Acting Manager Environmental Monitoring and Investigations**

The 4 - 7 July 2006 storms in the Wellington region

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the nature of the storms that occurred in the Greater Wellington region between the 4 – 7 July 2006.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

During the period 4-7 July 2006, two storms brought widespread rainfall to the Wellington region, producing an extended period of high river flows.

A report prepared by Laura Watts summarises the meteorology and hydrology of the storms. A copy of this report follows as **Attachment 1.**

4. Comment

The attached storm report stands on its own but can be précised by the following extract from the report's summary.

> *"The rainfall totals produced over the three day period were highest in the eastern Wairarapa hills, the Aorangi Range, Orongorongo Range and Wainuiomata. Unconfirmed rainfall totals in eastern Wairarapa, to the east of Martinborough (around Hinakura in the mid-Pahaoa catchment), exceeded 400 mm. The estimated return period of the rainfall in this area is 80 years. Totals from automatic gauges indicate at least 330 mm fell in the Aorangi Range and 345 mm in the Wainuiomata catchment.*
>
> *The return periods of the rainfall were most significant for the durations of 24 to 72 hours, highlighting how these events brought*

long periods of moderately intense rainfall rather than short, very heavy rain. High river flows occurred as a result of the storms, particularly in the eastern Wairarapa rivers, the streams of the central Wairarapa valley, Wainuiomata River, and Mangaroa River. However, in general the monitored rivers did not reach levels as high as during the event of February 2004, or (in parts of the region) March 2005.

More surface flooding occurred in the central Wairarapa compared to in March 2005, as a result of the storms' timing in winter. Overall the 4-7 July event was characterised by large volumes of water: surface flooding, and record-high volumes of water passing through the Wairarapa floodways into Lake Wairarapa. These effects were the result of two storms occurring within a three day period producing an unusually long period of rainfall, saturated catchment conditions, and an extended period of high river flows."

5. Communication

Information contained in the attached report has been provided to the media both as the storm was taking place and subsequently.

The storm report has been circulated to parties who have an interest in managing the impacts of major storms including territorial authorities and emergency management personnel.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives** the report.*

2. ***Notes** the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:	Report approved by:
Ted Taylor Acting Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations	**Nigel Corry** Manager, Environment Management Division

Attachment 1: Report: The 4 - 7 July 2006 storms in the Wellington region