



Report 08.848
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Committee Catchment Management
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Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held on 16 October 2008.

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

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

4. Divisional matters

4.1 My last meeting

This is my last meeting as Divisional Manager, Catchment Management. I will however remain an employee of Greater Wellington until at least 30 May 2009 under a transition arrangement agreed with the Chief Executive. During this time I will be based in the Wellington office assisting in the Corporate and Strategy area, and possibly tidying up some Catchment projects where I can be of support to the Division. Of course all of this has got to fit around some all important hunting and fishing.

It has been a busy, challenging, and at times stressful, but overall very rewarding time since I took up the position in February 2006. The Division is now well set in place and we have made good progress on a wide range of strategy and policy areas. I wish the Committee and staff all the best for the future.

4.2 Regional Pest Management Strategy Review update

The revised RPMS was scheduled to be presented to Council at the meeting on 8th December 2008. However, it has been decided to delay the approval process to enable progression of the draft LTCCP.

Some significant decisions concerning GW's future involvement in the Tb NPMS, and the proposed regional possum / predator programme are required as part of developing the new LTCCP. These decisions will impact on the new RPMS. Delaying the RPMS approval will give time for any LTCCP considerations to be factored into the new Strategy.

At this stage it is intended for the RPMS Hearing Committee to report back to the Catchment Management Committee early in the New Year. The final report to Council will follow shortly after.

4.3 Continued GW involvement in the Bovine Tb programme

We have commenced discussions with the Animal Health Board about the option of extending Council's involvement in the Bovine TB programme for up to another two years. This option would ensure continued progress with the Bovine TB programme until after the new Tb NPMS is in place, and Council's long term involvement is sorted. It also enables Council to defer its decision on the regional possum programme given the current economic climate.

Two agreements covering both Funding and Vector Management will be required. In addition any extension to the transition arrangement will address the matters considered by the Committee at its meeting on 4 September.

We aim to have this option ready for Councillor consideration at the workshop planned for 25 November.

4.4 Masterton accommodation

The Council decision to proceed with a new building on its current Chapel Street site to meet staff accommodation needs has received significant local press coverage since the Council meeting on 3 November 2008. The building project will be included in the Council's Proposed 2009-19 LTCCP and further comment on the project can be expected.

4.5 Mangaroa flood hazard assessment

On Monday 3 November I attended the second meeting with Mangaroa Valley residents to discuss the flood hazard assessment completed in 2006 and their concerns over its implementation. Many concerns remain unresolved, and there is still a lot of work to do in conjunction with the Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC) to resolve, as far as possible, the issues raised by residents.

It is fair to say that much of the work now required should have been attended to as part of completing the original project. We have quite a bit of work to do

to regain the confidence of the locals while ensuring the flood hazard information meets the intended purpose of the study.

4.6 BioWorks update

BioWorks won three additional contracts as part of the Animal Health Board's second tender round that closed in mid-October. This gives the unit a full book of work to 30 June 2009 and sets the team up for what should be a successful year. The work programme from January 2009 has already been revised to take into account the three new operations (Kahutara-Pirinoa HR2, Moonshine HR1 and Mangaroa-Kaitoke HR4).

The unit had a very good month in October, both financially and with work progress. We made up good ground on some of the lost time that occurred during the wet July and August months. Challenges remain, as ever, including problems getting stock out of a forestry block at Te Wharau so that the aerial component of this operation can be completed. John Hopkirk, the Contract Co-ordinator, is working closely with our Vector Management team to try and come up with a solution with the landowner and grazing lessee.

4.7 Budgets

The first cut of the Division's operating budget ready for input into the new LTCCP is largely complete. All costs have had to be looked at very carefully to try and hold funding requirements (rates) for our baseline operating areas as close to 2008/09 levels as possible. We still have some areas of uncertainty including the possible extension of the Vector Management arrangements.

Our numbers go to a management review on 24 November before being finalised for initial consideration by Council on 9 December 2008. A big thanks goes to Stephen Hill for doing the hard work to pull this all together.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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