



Report 09.770
Date 2 December 2009
File E/06/31/03

Committee Council
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Report on the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 1 December 2009

1. Purpose

To inform council about the meeting of the Regulatory Committee that took place on 1 December 2009.

2. Reports

Juliet Milne spoke to the two reports she prepared for the Committee:

- State of the environment – 2008/09 annual summary; and
- Mangatarere Stream catchment water quality investigation – progress report.

2.1 State of the environment – 2008/09 annual summary

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires us to monitor and report on the state of the region's environment.

We have presented annual summaries on the state of the environment as a package of report cards since 2001. These cards cover air quality, coastal environments, groundwater, rainfall and river flows, recreational water quality, river and stream health, and soil health and contamination for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. The report cards where relevant, compare results with national standards and guidelines.

A press release was sent out when the cards were distributed in early December. Report cards were sent to over 500 users of environmental information in the region, including iwi, local and central government decision-makers, non-governmental organisations, environmental and community organisations, industry, interested individuals, schools, universities as well as all libraries and a selection of medical centres. The cards are also available from our website.

2.2 Mangatarere Stream catchment water quality investigation – progress report

The Mangatarere Stream is recognised in Greater Wellington's Regional Freshwater Plan for its trout spawning values as well as providing habitat for four species of endangered (threatened) native fish. The stream also discharges into the Waiohine River, a waterway with good water quality and significant cultural, recreational and ecological values.

The principal aim of the Mangatarere catchment investigation was to better understand water quality within the catchment, with the view to determining the primary nutrient sources and the potential migration of nutrients from the soil zone to receiving waters, both groundwater and surface water. This information will feed into the review of our Regional Plans.

3. Source of air pollution in Wainuiomata

Wainuiomata experiences occasional winter-time episodes of elevated PM₁₀ (airborne dust smaller than 10 microns in diameter) due to poor dispersion of domestic heating emissions.

While the Wainuiomata airshed does not currently breach the NES, the study into sources of air pollution in Wainuiomata confirmed that domestic fires are the primary source of PM₁₀, and also that fires are the primary source of contaminants of health concern such as fine particles (PM_{2.5}), arsenic and PAHs. This information needs to be taken into account in managing this airshed.

In the coming years, emissions from domestic home heating are predicted to decrease as householders replace wood burners at the end of their working life with cleaner burning models authorised by the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality (NES-AQ).

4. Environmental Regulation – 2008/09 report card summary

The 2008/09 year is the second year that these cards have been produced. Report cards cover the following areas:

- Resource consents
- Compliance monitoring
- Incident response
- Enforcement
- Pollution prevention

Copies of the cards were available at the meeting and are available on the GW website.

5. Regular report

Regular summary reports on decisions on non-notified resource consent applications, pollution control incidents, and the council's input into city and district planning were also provided. This information is readily available on the Council's website to ensure accessibility of the information.

6. Unconfirmed minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the committee meeting are attached as Attachment 1.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes