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Committee Council  
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## Report on the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 2 December 2009

### 1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee that took place at Greater Wellington's Wellington offices on 2 December 2009.

### 2. Battle Hill Land Management Plan

Mr Peter Hanford explained how a sustainable land management plan had been developed for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and the Belmont Park plan which has commenced. The focus of each management plan is to match land use with land capability. To do so a suite of tools had been used, and these analysed slopes, soil types, biodiversity opportunities and any limitation placed on the land. These categories of information were overlaid to identify the best land use match. In addition, the present use of the land – pastoral farming, forestry and recreation was also considered. An action plan for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park has evolved from this approach and examples were closing off riparian areas through fencing, wide spaced plantings (e.g. poplars) and applying fertiliser to only parts of the park.

### 3. Take Action Annual Report 2008-09

Kerryn Penny presented a summary of the last year's *Take Action* programme. The programme has been updated recently and explains more clearly how water catchments work. The revision coincides with the recent changes made to schools' curricula. The *Take Action* programme is rich with content directed at learning outcomes. As a result there has been a consistently high take up by schools. Additionally, some schools continue to run the programme with only limited assistance from GW once they have completed the initial programme. Kerryn presented a number of examples of the work the team has undertaken with school children. Particularly, activities such as establishing a plant nursery, planting days, mulching and weeding days that reflect a keen and long term commitment to restoring local areas.

Councillors were invited to attend an explore day experience planned for March 2010 and see, first hand, the team in action with school children.

#### **4. Community Engagement Projects Presentation**

Robyn Smith gave an outline of the community engagement projects - the *Take Care, Trees for Survival*, Corporate volunteers and the Honda Trees programmes - undertaken over the past year. She presented some examples which demonstrated that community work has made a difference and improved the local environment. These included dune restoration at Waikanae and Riversdale and areas alongside streams at Silverstream and Churton Park. As a result people are more committed and enthusiastic about looking after their immediate environments and local places.

Councillors commended Robyn and the team, which has achieved a good community outcome.

#### **5. WRS Update**

Kate O'Regan updated the committee on the work of the WRS office on three of the priority projects identified in the WRS - Genuine Progress Index (GPI), Regional Broadband, and Industrial Land. Working groups have been established and workstreams are flowing from these projects.

A GPI technical report and executive report are nearly completed, which will be taken to the WRS Committee in February 2010 for sign-off. There were originally 102 indicators, however due to inconsistencies in data, 29 indicators have been eliminated. There are now 73 indicators and 9 community outcomes. A communications strategy will be developed and taken to the WRS Committee in February 2010.

Kate explained that broadband is identified in the WRS as a key enabler of economic growth and one of seven priorities. We need to ensure that Wellington is a "fibre friendly" region. Kate explained some of the broadband workstreams undertaken, including a stocktake of policies on council assets and a template for gathering information on region-wide rules for aerial deployment. Other workstreams include a full trial proposal which is now complete on region-wide rules for trenching technologies, evaluating current processes for managing road openings and an online tool for businesses in the region to access up-to-date information on broadband speeds and costs. Submissions have been put forward on the Rural Broadband Initiative and Broadband Deployment Document.

Kate explained that the Industrial Land project is progressing. The aim is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of industrial land into the future and that we have the right quality and type. There are three workstreams which are focussing on the fit with the WRS, understanding the supply and demand for industrial land, and developing scenarios about possible futures in the Wellington region to determine whether the region needs more, less or the same amount of industrial land in the future.

The recent summit, held in October at Te Papa, aimed to more effectively commercialise R&D in the Wellington region and to maximise the economic benefit from science in the region. The summit attracted about 60 people, including representatives from CRI's, Universities and businesses. The summit created an impetus for Grow Wellington to build on existing workstreams. These workstreams include internships, connecting business with Universities and collaboration between Universities and the incubator. Workstreams also include promotion of the region's successful companies and Grow Wellington to employ an Innovation Champion.

## **6. Hydro generation at Te Marua**

Tony Shaw presented this report. He described how two lake pumps at the Te Marua water treatment plant had been modified to operate in reverse as turbines (i.e. pump as turbine or PAT) to generate up to 240 kw of power whilst filling the Stuart Macaskill lakes. Most of the power produced will be used at the pumping station with any surplus power exported through the local distribution network. The modifications have a payback of only 3-4 years.

## **7. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

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