

Report 10.73  
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Committee Catchment Management  
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## Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative – Implementation Strategy

### 1. Purpose

To present to the Committee the implementation strategy for the Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI).

### 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

In the LTCCP 2010-2019 regional funding amounting to \$525,000 was approved for WRECI. The approved funding matched an allocation made by MAF in August 2009. In the four years to 2012/13 the total budgeted spend for WRECI is \$1.347M.

WRECI will target five priority catchments and isolated hotspots and include the development of community partnerships and the preparation of 100 new Sustainability Plans in the Wairarapa hill country. This will result in the stabilisation of some 3,000 hectares and a significant reduction in the quantity of sediment reaching rivers and streams.

Andrew Stewart has been appointed as Project Co-ordinator and has prepared an implementation strategy to guide the programme both in terms of community engagement and roll-out of the Plans and subsequent works implementation.

### 4. Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy has been prepared in line with milestones agreed between MAF and GW and on the basis that demand for Plans and on-ground works will exceed resources available for delivery of the programme.

The basic assumptions contained in the strategy are that WRECI will target -

- those farms generating the most sediment
- farms that are part of a catchment that would benefit from a catchment approach
- properties that want to and are able to commit to significant works

The prioritisation of Plan delivery has two separate steps

- Prioritising where and in which order Plans will be developed
- Prioritising on farm works for those properties that have Plans developed

The factors used in the prioritisation process include sediment yield, farmer motivation, local champions, improvement in water quality, maintenance of community resilience and protecting soil productivity. These factors include environmental, economic and community outcomes.

WRECI is to deliver ten new Plans in the first year. These have been selected from the Whareama catchment and a start will be made on these Plans in early March. The balance of the Plan preparation programme is described in detail in the attached Implementation Strategy document.

## **5. WRECI Sustainability Plans**

A total of 100 new Plans are to be prepared over the first seven years of the project. WRECI Sustainability Plans have been adapted from the existing template for Sustainability Plans. They contain land resource information, an assessment of erosion risk, a targeted programme of works implementation, and an assessment of the economic impact on the business.

Two additional features are the inclusion of sections on sediment discharge and emission levels.

A draft of the WRECI Sustainability Plan for 'Taniwha' is attached.

## **6. Monitoring**

A grant of \$15,000 has been obtained from MAF to provide baseline vegetation mapping within the Whareama catchment. A student has been employed to map all existing poplar and willow planting at the property scale across 40 properties. This information will be digitised into a catchment profile and will include additional vegetation data from the National Land Cover Database to provide an overall picture of the existing vegetation. All new works, including work associated with the Afforestation Grant Scheme will be added on an annual basis.

## **7. Communications**

The contract with MAF sets out the requirement for community meetings and newsletters. In addition to this schedule, articles will be placed in Rural Focus to report progress to the wider community.

The contract with MAF also requires a Farmer Satisfaction Survey to be undertaken in 2012. The results of this survey will be available for extensive publication.

Outputs from the vegetation monitoring programme will also be included in future State of the Environment reports.

## **8. Recommendation**

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1 – WRECI Implementation Strategy  
Attachment 2 – Draft WRECI Sustainability Plan