

Report 12.615
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Committee Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee
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General Managers' report to the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee 30 January 2013

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council's activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Environment Management

3.1 Stratton Street plantation forest (Belmont Regional Park)

Road and skid construction began in early November; as at the end of December, 35 truck and trailer loads of logs had been loaded out to the port. Most of the logs are destined for China. To date the log grades have been slightly higher than expected, but it is too early in the operation to know if this trend will continue.

Over the next few months road and skid construction will continue and the hauler harvesting will commence. It is hoped to have the operation completed by June 2013, although this is dependant on weather conditions.

Two community newsletters have been produced and circulated to the local neighbours, park stakeholders, community groups and via the Belmont pages on the GWRC website. We have had very few questions from the community; it appears that people are comfortable with the operation, including the log transport and measures to mitigate environmental impacts.

During this stage several of the tracks in the pine block are closed for use or completely removed. However, with cooperation of the logging contractor,

some were reopened over the Christmas shutdown period and this was appreciated by park visitors.

3.2 Whale washed up at Paraparaumu Beach

On the morning of 16 January a large sperm whale was washed ashore on Paraparaumu Beach. The Department of Conservation requested our help to identify a site in Queen Elizabeth Park where it could be buried. This was carried out in conjunction with our farming leaseholder and a DOC archaeological specialist, and the Historic Places Trust was also informed. The leaseholder carried out the necessary work to enable access to the farm paddock; his time and materials for fencing and re-seeding have been charged to DOC.

Whale transported to QEP for burial



4. Water Supply

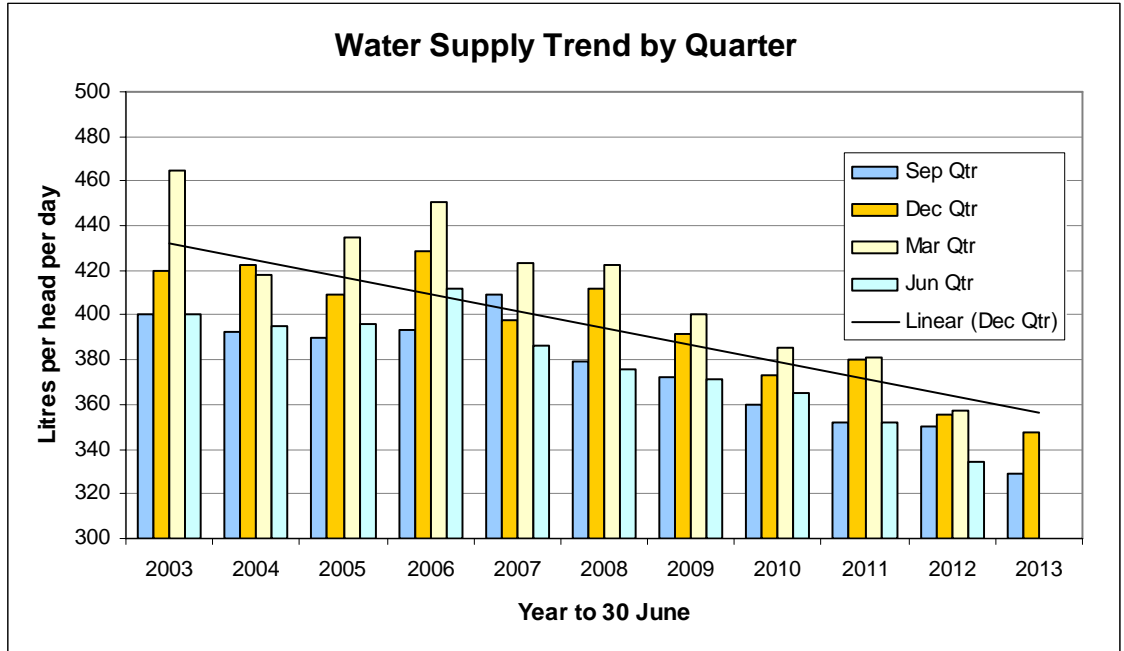
4.1 Water supply volume

Water supply for the three months to 31 December 2012 totalled 12,720 million litres (ML), or 138.3 ML/day. This represents a reduction of 1.4% for the second quarter year on year, and the lowest second quarter total in records to hand, going back to 1986/87.

On a per capita basis, supply for the 2012/13 financial year to date is 338 litres per day.

Each city council reduced its December-quarter water use year-on-year: Lower Hutt reduced by 1.3%, Porirua by 1.1%, Upper Hutt by 1.6% and Wellington by 1.4%.

A quarter-by-quarter water supply graph with December-quarter trend line is shown below.



4.2 Lakes upgrade

Following the filling and successful testing of Lake 2 last year, Lake 1 was fully drained by the 14th December and left to dry over the Holiday period. The Contractor resumed work on 7th January and is progressing well. Over 10% of the riprap has been stripped with a commensurate amount of the underlying FMA trimmed. Due to works progressing in the downtime, while Lake 2 was filled and Lake 1 emptied, almost 20% of the Lake 1 crest raising has been complete. The Contractor is scheduled to begin installing the LLDPE liner to Lake 1 within the next two weeks. Placement of the LLDPE liner is expected to be completed in June and lake filling should start in August 2013.

4.3 Lightning damage

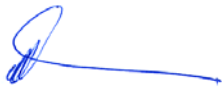
The Te Marua treatment plant sustained a direct lightning strike on 17th January which shut down the plant. The strike caused damage to the fire alarm system which resulted in the fire brigade attending site. Also, two flowmeters were damaged but were able to be repaired. This is a small amount of damage from a direct strike and demonstrates the effectiveness of recently installed lightning protection equipment.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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