

Report 15.543
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Committee Council
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Report on the Environment Committee meeting 27 October 2015

1. Purpose

To inform Council of the Environment Committee meeting of 27 October 2015.

2. Public Participation

Russell Bell spoke in regards to concerns about the retirement of wetlands at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Peter Brooking and Janet Holborow, Councillor, Kapiti Coast District Council, spoke in regards to concerns over aerial weed spraying in Queen Elizabeth Park on Labour Day.

3. Reports

3.1 Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022: Operational Plan Report 2014/15

The Committee approved the Operational Plan report 2014/15 for the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022.

Throughout the 2014/15 year the Biosecurity department continued the implementation of the Regional Pest Management Strategy as outlined in the Operational Plan 2014/15. The majority of resources continue to be allocated to the 'total control' and 'site-led' management categories.

The Committee noted that the Regional Possum and Predator control programme had controlled predators and possums over 70,200ha for the 2014/15 year, including 42,200 ha of which that has been declared free of bovine Tb.

The Committee noted that an essential part of implementing the strategy is successful relationship building and providing advice and education to the community. The biosecurity department retains strong partnerships with Central and Local government, iwi, science providers, community groups and the general public.

The Committee noted that a report on Health and Safety should be provided along with the operational plan report which would highlight incidents and risks relating to pest management.

3.2 Flood Protection Asset Management Report for 2014/15

The Committee was advised of the progress made with the Flood Protection Department's asset management system and the overall condition of the department's infrastructural assets. The Committee noted that flood protection assets are in a similar condition to previous years and 90% of assets are currently in a good or moderate condition. A new asset management plan has been produced and the focus now is on ensuring the correct investment decisions are made.

The Committee noted that sufficient financial provision has been made available through the maintenance budgets and scheme reserves which will ensure completion of maintenance programmes. Total reserves have increased at a rate of approximately 3-4% per annum in recent years.

3.3 Floodplain Management Plan Implementation: Annual Progress Report to June 2015

The Committee was updated on progress made to June 2015, in implementing the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae Floodplain Management Plans and the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (LWVDS) upgrade.

The Committee noted that the total Western FMP budget for 2015/16 is \$5.3 million. The total budget for 2015/16 for the Wairarapa is \$3.7M.

The Committee was updated on the Flood Protection 2015-2025 Business Plan which provides a total of \$127M to implement the Hutt, Otaki, Waikanae, Pinehaven, Waiohine and Te Kauru Floodplain Management Plans.

3.4 General Managers Report

The Committee was updated on the Catchment Management group's activities.

The Committee noted that a preferred option (Option A) for the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project had been recommended to the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee. The Committee congratulated flood protection staff for their contributions.

The Committee noted that there has been significant damage to tree roots in the Maungakotukutuku forest, which has been caused by 4WD enthusiasts. Staff are currently considering installing a gate into the forest that would restrict vehicular movement but allow walking and bike access.

The Committee was updated on the activities of the Harbours department.

4. Communication

No external communication is required.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Report approved by:

Cr Donaldson
Chair, Environment
Committee

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