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| Committee | Council |
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Report on the Environment Committee meeting, 20 September 2016

1. Purpose

To inform Council of the Environment Committee meeting of 20 September 2016.

2. Reports

2.1 Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Flood Forecasting Trial

The Committee was updated on the flood forecasting system that has been developed for the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River.

GWRC began a project in 2015 to develop a trial flood forecasting system for the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River. This has been a team effort between Flood Protection, Environmental Science and ICT, in partnership with WREMO. Greater warning times will allow WREMO, landowners and other stakeholders to respond more effectively to flood events and will help the community to take actions to minimise risk to life and property.

GWRC has used DHI's "MIKE Workbench" system for developing the flood forecasting model. This makes use of GWRC's existing flood models which have already been developed using DHI software.

The outputs from the Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River flood forecasting model are currently only available to GWRC staff with access to our Hydrotel system or the modelling PC itself. The model is still in a trial phase and the forecast information will be made publicly available once officers are satisfied that the model is sufficiently reliable.

2.2 Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River Environmental Strategy Review Update - Shaping Report and User Survey Results

Representatives from Boffa Miskell and Rob Greenaway Associates Ltd attended the meeting to present on the work completed through Phase 1 of the Hutt River Environmental Strategy Review (HRES) Review.

Boyden Evans of Boffa Miskell outlined the Phase 2 scope and direction for the HRES Review based on the consultation feedback gathered through Phase 1 of the project. He also discussed the next steps in the review process.

Rob Greenaway of Rob Greenaway Associates Ltd spoke about the User Intercept Survey methodology and results which formed a key part of the Phase 1 consultation feedback.

2.3 Flood Protection Asset Management Report for 2015/16

The Committee was advised of the progress made with the Flood Protection Department's asset management system and the overall condition of infrastructural assets.

There has been a change in the asset condition ratings from 2015 to 2016. This is due to improvements in the way GWRC gathers data and not a reduction in the overall asset condition. These improvements included:

- Mobile technology in the field: A new app has been developed for field staff to capture asset condition and other information.
- Improved business systems: Streamlined data manipulation with enhanced use of Microsoft Power Pivot and Power Business Intelligence software platforms.
- Database maintenance: Ongoing cleaning and rationalisation of the SAP PM and GIS asset databases.
- Detailed investigations into major assets. Detailed investigations into the condition and performance of floodwalls and the Porirua detention dams.

2.4 Progress on the Implementation of Farm Environment Plans in the Porirua Catchment and Kapiti Coast

The Committee was updated on progress with implementation of Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) in the Porirua Catchment and Kapiti Coast.

Since the programme's inception sixty FEPs, including eight on the Kapiti Coast have been produced. The main success of the programme has been the high level of landowner engagement and their motivation to interact with the regional council in a non-regulatory manner. The relationships developed are positive and have led to an awareness being built around good management practice whilst helping landowners learn about their farms natural resources.

Land Management has been actively working with landowners on the Kapiti Coast through the FEP programme since 2013/14. Of the eight FEPs that will be in operation, six are dairy farms whilst two are beef farms.

The Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour has been identified within GWRC as one of the sites of highest coastal biodiversity values in the region. The Land Management department uses three main approaches to support rural landowners in the catchment to reduce erosion from their land:

1. Producing Soil Conservation Plans for priority properties with areas identified as yielding significant loads of sediment.
2. Administering a riparian fund for smaller properties in the catchment that don't have enough land to qualify for a soil conservation plan, but wish to address sediment loss via riparian retirement and planting.
3. Running educational events and initiatives to inform the rural communities in the catchment about what they can do to reduce erosion on their land

2.5 Floodplain Management Plan Implementation: Annual Progress Report to June 2016

The Committee was updated on progress made to June 2016, in implementing the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae Floodplain Management Plans, and the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme (LWVDS) upgrade.

The FMP implementation is progressing well with the target of completing the western projects by 2040 and the Wairarapa projects by 2025. The Waiohine and Te Kāuru projects are yet to commence. A total of \$6.18 million was spent during the year.

2.6 General Managers' report to the Environment Committee meeting 20 September 2016

The Committee was updated on the activities of the Catchment Management, Environment Management, and Strategy groups relevant to the Committee.

2.7 Report on the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting of 4 August 2016

The Committee received a report informing it of matters occurring at the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting of 4 August 2016.

2.8 Report on Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting 13 September 2016

The Committee received a report informing it of matters occurring at the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting of 13 September 2016.

3. Communication

No external communication is required.

4. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

4.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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