

Report 99.585

15 October 1999

File: E/6/18/3

[Report 1999.585.JB:lb]

Report to the Environment Committee
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about activities of the Environment Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Department Managers' Reports are attached. There is no report from the Divisional Accountant because, to date, we do not have the available financial information due to the implementation of the new Financial Information System. Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant, will report verbally to the meeting if any information becomes available in the meantime.

3. Long-Term Financial Strategy (LTFS)

The Management team has been carrying out preliminary work for Divisional input into the LTFS. We have three new initiatives or directions that we are examining: the environmental education/communication strategy; following up on the findings of the state of the environment report; and implementing the RPS and plans, particularly the ecosystems segments. The latter is, of course, related to *Our Chance to Turn the Tide* (New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy).

There are overlaps in these three "umbrella areas" and, of course, they do not involve just the Environment Division. Other areas of the Council will have important roles to play.

We will have more detail at the next Councillors' workshop.

4. **Business Development Quality Award**

We were absolutely thrilled to receive this award at a dinner held at the Beehive on 6 October 1999. It was a complete surprise. As we were first time entrants, we did not have any real expectation of winning.

What was more pleasing was that two of the three award winners were from local government. As staff, we get very tired of constantly being perceived by the media and public as inefficient and bureaucratic – and not on a par with the private sector. The Awards showed the opposite to be true. One of the assessors remarked to us afterwards, that he was pleasantly surprised at the way the local government sector was operating - something that he hadn't expected to find.

I would like to congratulate formally, Rob Forlong, Manager, Consents Management and the staff of that department. Management can have all the processes and controls in place, but they don't work unless you have good staff. I think this Award showed the calibre of the Consents staff.

Without wishing to sound trite, we do aim for continual improvements in the way we operate and are always looking for ideas for doing things better.

5. **Staff**

If you think that Geoff Skene, Manager, Environment Co-ordination is looking bleary-eyed and distracted, it is because he has recently become a father. Grace Sarah was born on 22 October. Congratulations Geoff and Doris!

6. **Recommendation**

That the reports from the Divisional Manager and the Department Managers be received.

Report prepared by:

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Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachments.