



Report 07.548
Date 27 August 2007
File WS/08/05/01

Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Authors Geoff Dick, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management
Nigel Corry, Divisional Manager, Environment Management
Murray Kennedy, Divisional Manager, Water Supply, Parks & Forests

Divisional Managers' Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the Committee's previous meeting held on 2 August 2007.

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

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

4. Divisional matters

4.1 Catchment Management – Geoff Dick

John Read

Committee members will be aware of the recent sad passing of John Read who was an appointed member of the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee during the current triennium and the 1992-1995 triennium.

John was also a member of the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Advisory Committee for many years, and more recently was a member of the LWVDS Review Committee.

At the 14 August 2007 Council meeting Councillors paid their respects and acknowledged the contribution made by John to rural Council matters.

John was a big, lively character and will be sadly missed.

BioWorks

A large amount of management time has been going into BioWorks to keep the unit on track to complete the remaining 2006/07 work, and to develop the new business plan and unit structure going forward. This has involved a number of discussions with the Animal Health Board (AHB). A huge thank you goes to Wayne O'Donnell and his VM team to keep BioWorks ticking along in the interim and helping develop the new strategy.

Good progress is being made with the Mangaroa/Kaitoke and Otaki aerial operations. The Otaki aerial is complete and the ground work is close to completion. The Mangaroa/Kaitoke pre-feed has been flown and we are awaiting the next weather opportunity to fly the toxic bait. The Moores Valley rework remains of concern because we still have high possum numbers at bait stations and in trap lines.

The work programme for the remainder of 2007/08 is starting to come together although we are still waiting on AHB approval for much of this work. The details of this are provided in the separate public excluded report attached to this order paper. In the meantime detailed planning for this work is underway so that a seamless start into the new work programme can be made assuming approval is given.

Lake Ferry car park

On Friday, 24 August, Ranjan Cyril and I met representatives from the Lake Ferry community, three members from the South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC), and staff from SWDC and the Department of Conservation to discuss the fishermen's car park by the Lake Onoke river mouth.

During last winter's flood events the river mouth shifted to the east eroding the formed car park, before a new outlet was cut in the usual location. The locals want to make a new car park to ensure visitors keep being attracted to this part of the region.

We explained to the group that forming the new car park was a Lake Ferry community responsibility, and was not a responsibility of the Lower Valley scheme. This was accepted. It was also agreed that the new car park needed to be shifted further to the east to make it less vulnerable to erosion in the future.

Regional Land Transport Strategy

Jane Davis, Divisional Manager – Transport Planning has kindly offered to make a brief presentation to the Committee on the recently completed Regional Land Transport Strategy. Jane will also provide a brief update on general GW transport initiatives, and how they may affect the Wairarapa.

Communications – Catriona Robertson

Since the last Committee meeting in August key communication activities for the Division have continued to focus on ongoing media work for the Mangaroa/Kaitoke, Akatarawa Forest and Otaki winter possum control operations.

The Otaki aerial operation is complete and pre-feed aerial work has been done for the Mangaroa/Kaitoke and Akatarawa Forest operations. It is anticipated all aerial work will be complete by mid-September, weather dependent.

Media activities also focussed on the BioWorks review, a rural living field day in Ohariu Valley on Saturday 8 September and a Mauriceville community planting on Thursday 13 September.

The next edition of the Rural Services Newsletter is due for publication early September and I hope to have printed copies available at the meeting. Stories include the discovery of a new bio-control agent in Wairarapa for Smilax, Hill Country Liaison Group, environmental data on our website, dams and the Building Act, the Kopuaranga River Scheme, and an update on Bovine Tb.

4.2 Environment Management – Nigel Corry

Regional Policy Statement review timetable

At the 14 August meeting of the Council, it was agreed to revise the timetable associated with the review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS), to reflect the wishes of many of the territorial authorities (TA's) in the region. Consultation on the draft provisions undertaken in the last 6-8 weeks suggested that while generally happy with the content, many TA's were uncomfortable with the timeframe around the development of a proposed RPS (originally scheduled for release in October of this year), and that there was a preference amongst a number of councils that a draft RPS in fact be prepared in the first instance. It was agreed by Council that there is significant benefit in ensuring that the region's city and district councils continue to be engaged in the review process, and the following timeframe and process was consequently agreed to:

September to November 2007: Continue to work with territorial authorities and other stakeholders to address issues of concern raised in consultation to date.

December 2007 and January 2008: Hold workshop's with Greater Wellington councillors and appointed members, and TA's, to highlight changes to the draft RPS, taking into account feedback from TA's and other stakeholders, and present an integrated draft RPS.

Mid February 2008: Release of a *draft* RPS for consultation.

June/July 2008: Formal adoption of a *proposed* RPS.

4.3 Water Supply, Parks & Forests – Murray Kennedy

Reserve Forests

Tauanui Logging

A harvest total of 1,454 tonnes for July is slightly less than the 1,687 tonnes harvested in June but still an acceptable quality.

The possibility of obtaining a hauler from the South Island is welcomed as this has the potential to increase the cutting rate. It may also be possible to use the hauler from time to time in the plantation forests.

Wind Energy

Staff are still in discussion with one of the tenderers for the Stoney Creek Wind Farm development. While there has been some progress, I am not yet in a position to make a recommendation to Council.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager,
Catchment Management

Nigel Corry
Divisional Manager,
Environment Management

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water Supply,
Parks & Forests

Attachments 1, 2, 3: