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Report to Environment Committee  
from Councillor Mike Gibson

## **Update on Wellington Regional Environmental Agency**

This report provides a summary of the issues discussed at the most recent Wellington Regional Environmental Agency meeting. The meeting was held on 24 August 2001 in our Committee Room.

During this meeting the end of year financial reports for WREA and Enviromart were presented. Enviromart continues to struggle under the limited funding it receives. One Council has even decided to reduce its contribution. An unfortunate chicken and egg situation has occurred. Without an appropriate level of funding, Enviromart will not become a household name and Councils do not want to commit financially until that happens.

Peter Crosland from BusinessCare gave us an update on the upcoming training for local co-ordinators. The programme will be launched with two workshops on 18 October 2001.

Jo Campbell outlined the Take Action for Water programme and Romae Duns presented Barry Strong's agrichemical collection order paper from the last Environment Committee meeting.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Heidi Mardon, the national co-ordinator for Enviroschools. Heidi spoke of the programme and included a number of examples of successes they had during the pilots in Hamilton.

The Wellington Regional Environmental Agency is an excellent forum to facilitate this type of discussion and address serious waste issues within our region.

## **Recommendation**

*That the report be received.*

Cr Mike Gibson