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Committee: Environment
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Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

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

2. Managers' reports

The Department Managers' Reports, along with the Divisional Accountant's report follow as attachment 1.

3. Kapiti water situation

At the time of writing we have just issued a second Water Shortage Direction for the Waikanae River. The river is flowing at 690l/s, our trigger point for action. KCDC has just commissioned the use of bore water to supplement the general supply, probably commencing 23 April.

With little rain forecast, the situation in Kapiti is critical. It is good to see that consumption has reduced, although KCDC has frequently breached its consent. Our priority at this stage is to deal with the situation at hand; we will consider enforcement action when there is enough water in the river!

Certainly, the drought has been a sharp reminder of how we tend to take water for granted in this country – and how we need to change our thinking about our use of some natural resources.

I have to say that the issue has taken up a huge amount of my time, and that of two of my managers. We have kept in constant contact with KCDC and Hutt Valley Health.

4. Civil Defence

It is pleasing to see that a decision has been made about the structure of civil defence in the Region. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Wayne Hastie who convened the working party that developed and evaluated options. Wayne presented a comprehensive report to the chief executive officers of the local authorities in the Region and we now have an agreed way forward.

I would also like to note that I recently attended a two day Controllers course!

5. Ecobus development

Geoff Skene has been working hard on developing the Ecobus.

We have recognised, however, that there is a close link between the Ecobus and the Council's communication strategy. We are at risk of confusing the community if we try and send too many messages. Consequently, we are trying to work together with the Communications team to ensure that our activities complement each other.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. receive the report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

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Attachment 1: Department Manager's Report