



**Report**            **04.134**  
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**Committee**       **Environment Committee**  
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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 2**.

### **3. Planning Institute Conference**

The two principal resource management conferences held annually are those organised by the Resource Management Law Association (RMLA) and the NZ Planning Institute (NZPI).

The practice has been for two councillors (generally the Committee Chair and one other) to attend the RMLA conference and one councillor to go the NZPI conference.

This year the NZPI conference is being held in Invercargill on 5 –7 May 2004. The theme of this conference is special environments and the subthemes are "working together, RMA issues and planning for the future". The RMLA conference is being held in Taupo, 30 Sept – 2 October 2004, and is entitled "Power to the People – From Mountains to the Sea".

The programme for the NZPI conference is attached (**Attachment 1**). As yet there are no details on the RMLA conference.

It is appropriate that this Council is represented at these conferences; they are particularly relevant to our resource management work.

The Committee should decide representation at the NZPI conferences at this meeting.

#### **4. Communications Advisor**

Environment Division staff are making excellent use of Keith Lyons, our new communications advisor. We have already seen an increase in media coverage, both through our media releases and stories we have generated working with a wide range of media.

There is a system being developed to provide more accurate monitoring of media coverage. This will enable us to assess better our effectiveness.

Keith has begun to develop a communications plan for the Division. We hope to have this completed by the end of April 2004.

Much of Keith's time has been taken up with assisting staff with publications, as well as with communication strategies for individual projects, such as book launches and conferences.

#### **5. Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1:** NZPI Conference programme  
**Attachment 2:** Department Managers' Reports