



Report 04.442
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Committee Landcare
Author Rob Forlong Divisional Manager, Landcare

Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' reports

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

3. 2003/04 Year End

As we start a new financial year it's appropriate to give you a few brief comments about the last twelve months.

A new regional park ranger service (East Harbour) and the start of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan capital works represented the most obvious challenges for the 2003/04 year. In addition, there were also the inevitable nasty surprises. For example, discovering ammunition in QEP and the storms of November (Paekakariki) and February (Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata) certainly didn't help our work programme.

Despite, (or perhaps because of) those challenges 2003/04 looks like being the most successful year for Landcare since I have been Divisional Manager. I would like to record my thanks to the staff of the Division who have worked so hard to make the 2003/04 year a good one and to the Committee members who have overseen our efforts. I hope 2004/05 can be as fruitful.

4. Transfer of Management of Land in East Harbour and Belmont Regional Parks

The transfer of management of land in East Harbour and Belmont Regional Parks is progressing well. Both HCC and Greater Wellington have adopted our 2004/05 Annual Plans which clears the way for us to take the next step in the process. We are presently putting the finishing touches on our management agreement and once that is complete we can formally notify the Minister of Local Government of our intentions. At this stage we remain on track to complete the process by the end of August.

5. Mabey Road Depot

The surplus land at Mabey Road depot was sold on 22 July for \$3.2M. As I've already advised you, we were very pleased with the price achieved. The funds will be used to pay off debt and should get us reasonably close to the target debt levels in the Council's Treasury Management Policy.

6. Lower Wainuiomata Dam Decommissioning and Wetland

At the last meeting I reported that, Greater Wellington Water had completed a study on the options for decommissioning the Lower Wainuiomata Dam. The study was reported to the Utility Services Committee on 22 June 2004. That Committee invited a detailed proposal on the dam decommissioning and an associated wetland development. We are presently working through the details and implications of a proposal based on the least cost decommissioning option with Greater Wellington Water. We hope to report that to both Committees at the next meeting.

7. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Rob Forlong
Divisional Manager, Landcare

Attachment 1: Departmental reports