



**Report** 04.519  
**Date** 2 September 2004  
**File** B/10/03/02

**Committee** Utility Services  
**Author** M D Kennedy Strategy and Asset Manager

## Wainuiomata Lower Dam : Decommissioning Update

### 1. Purpose

To update the Committee on the Wainuiomata lower dam decommissioning proposal following consideration by the Council's Landcare Committee.

### 2. Background

The Utility Services Committee considered Report No. 04.290 regarding the decommissioning at its meeting in June and passed the following resolutions.

#### Report 04.290

*Resolved*

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *Note that the do nothing option with respect to the lower dam is not an acceptable outcome, as the structure is not expected to comply with the dam legislation currently being considered by Parliament.*
- (3) *Note that the lowering of the spillway to create a wetland, is the lowest cost option.*
- (4) *That officers be invited to bring back a joint proposal following the Landcare Committee's consideration of the matter.*

As a result Report 04.398 was considered by the Landcare Committee at its meeting on 2 September. The resolutions of the Landcare Committee were:

- (1) *That the report be received and the contents noted.*
- (2) *That it be noted that the do nothing option with respect to the lower dam is not an acceptable outcome, as the structure is not expected to comply with the dam legislation currently being considered by Parliament.*

- (3) *Agree that the Utility Services Division proceed with the decommissioning of the Wainuiomata Dam.*

Resolved to Recommend to Council

- (4) (a) *That the lowering of the spillway to create a wetland is the preferred decommissioning option, this being the lowest cost option.*
- (b) *That before the wetland be opened for recreational access in 2006/07 consultation takes place with the Conservation Department and other interested parties including the local community on the recreation options available.*

### **3. Proposal**

The second recommendation in this report is similar to recommendation 4(a) considered by the Landcare Committee. Greater Wellington Water officers are comfortable with the public having access to the wetland area, given the relatively few Greater Wellington water facilities in the area surrounding the proposed wetland.

Public consultation about the use and form of the wetland can take place while the dam is being decommissioned.

### **4. Communications**

It would be appropriate to issue a media release following the Council meeting indicating that a wetland will be created sometime after the lower Wainuiomata dam is decommissioned.

### **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- (1) *Note that Landcare staff will consult with various interest groups before the wetland is opened to the public.*

*recommend to Council that:*

- (2) *The lowering of the spillway to create a wetland is the preferred decommissioning option as it is the lowest cost option and should now proceed.*

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