



Report **06.104**
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Committee **Environment Committee**
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Management Division**

Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Management 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. Reporting as One Division

The new Environment Management Division structure has been in place for a couple of months now, and this meeting of the Environment Committee represents the first opportunity for issues from the Planning and Resources Department in the Wairarapa to be formally reported. To this end, you will find attached a report from Ted Taylor, Acting Manager, Planning and Resources. Ted will also be attending the meeting and will be able to elaborate on any issues in the Wairarapa that Councillors may have a particular interest in. The way in which we report issues from the Wairarapa office will no doubt evolve over time, but we are keen in the first instance to ensure that all issues of relevance to the work for the Environment Management Division are reported through to this Committee.

4. Making Good Decisions - Update Seminar

The Ministry for the Environment and Local government New Zealand, in conjunction with the University of Auckland, have developed a new seminar series for accredited hearing commissioners. The seminar series is targeted at those who have already undertaken the *Making Good Decisions* training (which is all members of the Environment Committee), and comprises a one day update seminar which provides practical advice on the exercise of obligations and powers created by the Resource Management Act Amendment Act 2005. All accredited Councillors and commissioners are expected to attend one update seminar during the three year life of their certificates.

There are 16 seminars proposed across the country between 22 May and 4 August, and I have provided a copy of the seminar brochure for the update seminars at **Attachment 2** to this report.

5. Climate Change and Governance Conference Report

A number of Councillors, including those from the Environment Committee, attended the Climate Change and Governance Conference at Te Papa, in Wellington, on 28 and 29 March 2006. As you will be aware, the conference explored the nature and likely impacts of climate change, and this issue has been further discussed in the last week as part of Councillors workshops around the development of the Regional Policy Statement. Councillors who attended this conference may wish to provide an oral briefing to the meeting on the key messages from the conference. Some notes from the Conference have also recently been circulated by Councillor Turver in the Councillors information bulletin.

6. Beacon Hill Visit

It was agreed at the last meeting of the Environment Committee that a tour of the Beacon Hill facility would be organised. Efforts of have been made to organise this tour, however, a suitable date for the majority of Committee members has not yet been found. When Mike Pryce returns from annual leave we will again look to organise this visit.

7. 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: Department Managers' Reports

Attachment 2: Making Good Decisions Update Seminar Information