



**Report**                    **06.632**  
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**Committee**            **Environment Committee**  
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## **Annual environment report cards 2005-06**

### **1. Purpose**

To present to the Committee the annual summary of our state of the environment monitoring.

### **2. Reason for monitoring**

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires us to monitor and report on the state of the environment in our region. Monitoring the state of the environment allows us to:

- observe and interpret trends or changes in environmental quality and determine the reasons for these;
- have good information for resource management decision making (resource consents and regional plan reviews); and
- convey information about our natural resources to the wider community.

### **3. Annual monitoring reports**

We have presented annual summaries of our environmental monitoring results as a package of report cards since 2001. Last year the cards were a summary of the full state of the environment report *Measuring up 2005*, which reported on the achievement of the objectives in our regional policy statement over the last ten years. This year we have returned to the annual summaries, with cards covering air quality, coastal and freshwater quality, recreational water quality, groundwater, soil and hydrology. We also have a card about our work in pollution control.

Each card presents data as information that can be understood by a wide range of people. For more detailed or specific information, people can contact the staff member identified on each card.

The report cards will be tabled at the meeting.

## 4. An overview of the card content

As with previous years we have summarised the key points in the sidebar of each card. Some points of note are that last spring was particularly dry and this resulted in low river flows around the region, and low groundwater levels in Kapiti and Wairarapa throughout the summer. The wet winter caused record low groundwater levels to jump to record highs.

The dry summer may have also helped the high level of compliance with bathing water guidelines at the region's beaches. Last summer none of the beaches in the Porirua district breached the guidelines. Almost all the high recordings were on the Kapiti coast.

The results of sediment surveys in Porirua Harbour were reported to the Environment Committee in July (see report 06.313). These results have been summarised in the Harbours, beaches and estuaries card, with the results of sediment contamination in urban streams summarised in the River and lake health card. Alongside this are the results from the soil contamination survey which have been summarised in the Soils card. Persistent contaminants are showing up in sediments and soils around the region.

## 5. Communication

We will send out a press release when we distribute the report card package in early December. The package will be sent to over 700 users of environmental information in the region, including iwi, local and central government decision-makers, non-governmental organisations, environmental and community organisations, industry, interested individuals, schools and universities as well as all libraries and many of Greater Wellington's staff. The cards will also be available on our website.

## 6. Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. **Receive the report;** and
2. **Note the contents.**

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