



Report 07.138
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Committee Environment Committee
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Management

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. Building Act Accreditation

Regional Councils are currently working together to determine how to meet the requirements of the Building Act which dictate that we must be 'accredited' and in a position to process building consents for dams by 30 November 2007. While Greater Wellington has already adopted a Dangerous Dams Policy, the requirement to become accredited to process building consents is significantly more onerous, with 19 specific regulations in place defining accreditation requirements. As you are aware, \$16,000 has been included in the 2007/08 Draft Annual Plan specifically for the accreditation fee that we, along with other Regional Councils, are required to pay.

Regional Councils are working collectively in a "cluster" in an attempt to find a pragmatic alternative to becoming individually accredited. This is likely to take the form of two or three councils becoming accredited, with other councils either transferring power, or contracting the accredited council, to process building consents for dams on their behalf.

4. Beacon Hill Upgrade Works

Work to refine the project scope for the development of a new signal station facility at Beacon Hill is progressing. Committee members will recall that costs associated with the refurbishment of the existing facility were in line with developing a new purpose built facility. As such, the decision was made to construct a new building on a site adjacent to the existing signal station, and once completed, to demolish the existing building.

Councillors are also aware that the \$200,000 initially budgeted for the Beacon Hill upgrade works will not be sufficient to complete this task. A full costing exercise will be completed in time for the Council meeting scheduled for 8 May 2007, and we will bring a paper to this meeting seeking approval for additional funds to be allocated to this project.

5. RMLA 2007 Annual Conference

For the information of Councillors, this year's conference, themed "*My own Piece of Paradise*", is being held on 4 – 7 October 2007 in Napier. Councillor registrations will be called for later on in the year.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Nigel Corry

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Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports