



Report 07.608  
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Committee Environment Committee  
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## Take Care Annual Report 2006-07

### 1. Purpose

To provide the committee with a summary of the achievements and activities of Greater Wellington funded care groups during the financial year ended 30 June 2007.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

The *Take Care* programme provides funding, staff support and specialist advice to community groups who volunteer their time to restore the health of the region's most at risk ecosystem types. These include rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries, coastal dunes and escarpments. The programme balances the joint objectives of restoring ecological sites with the delivery of environmental education, and gives the Council more opportunities to connect with the community.

The Annual Plan performance indicator for the programme is that existing groups are maintained and five new groups are established and assisted to the satisfaction of the Council and within budget.

### 4. Comment

Greater Wellington has assisted groups at 31 project sites over the past year. 71% of these projects have arisen out of the contestable fund process and are coordinated by staff in the Environment Management Division. The remaining 29% are selected by Greater Wellington staff in response to identified needs and while funded from the Department's budget their activities are coordinated by staff outside the division. Three projects in our regional parks and two Friends of the Rivers groups are funded in this way. A

further four sites have been selected by Land Management in the Wairarapa; one of which is facilitated by a member of the Policy team based in the Wairarapa Office.

#### 4.1 Geographic Spread

Table one below, shows the number of care groups in each district. A map, showing care group locations, is appended to this report (see appendix two). The Kapiti Coast continues to have the largest number of care groups in the region with 39 % of all currently funded groups. While Porirua only has three ‘official’ groups, a *Take Care* staff member also assists the Forest and Bird Society with their nursery and restoration project at Pauatahanui Inlet. Significant work has also been done in both the Horokiri and Kakaho catchments by corporate volunteers and community service workers.

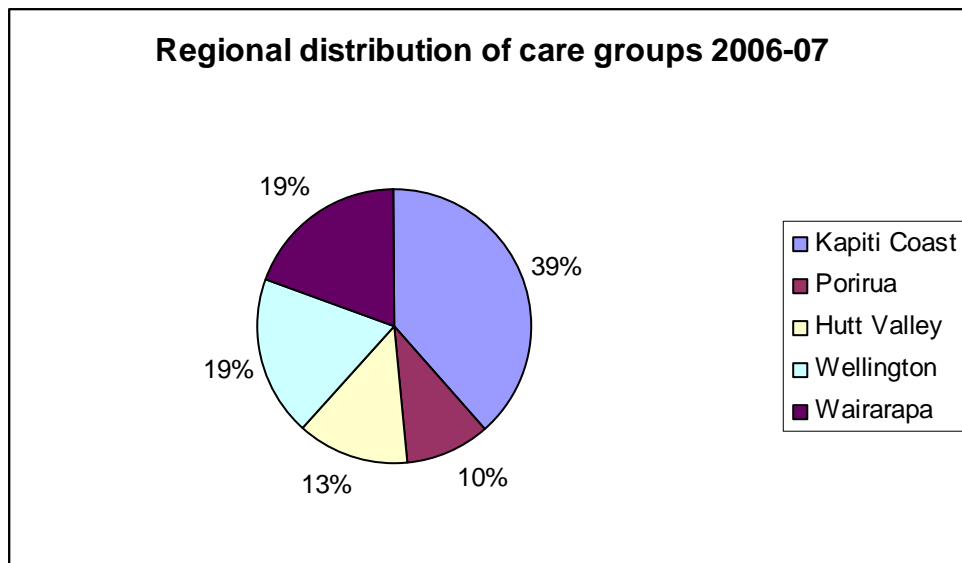


Table 1: Regional distribution of care groups

Care group locations 2006-07		
Kapiti Coast	12	38.71%
Porirua	3	9.68%
Hutt Valley	4	12.90%
Wellington	6	19.35%
Wairarapa	6	19.35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### 4.2 Range of Ecosystems

Table two below, shows the range of ecosystems being restored around the region. 65% of the projects are focussed solely on the restoration of freshwater ecosystems (streams, rivers and wetlands) with the remaining 35%

having a coastal focus. The two combination projects incorporate riparian, wetland and dune elements.

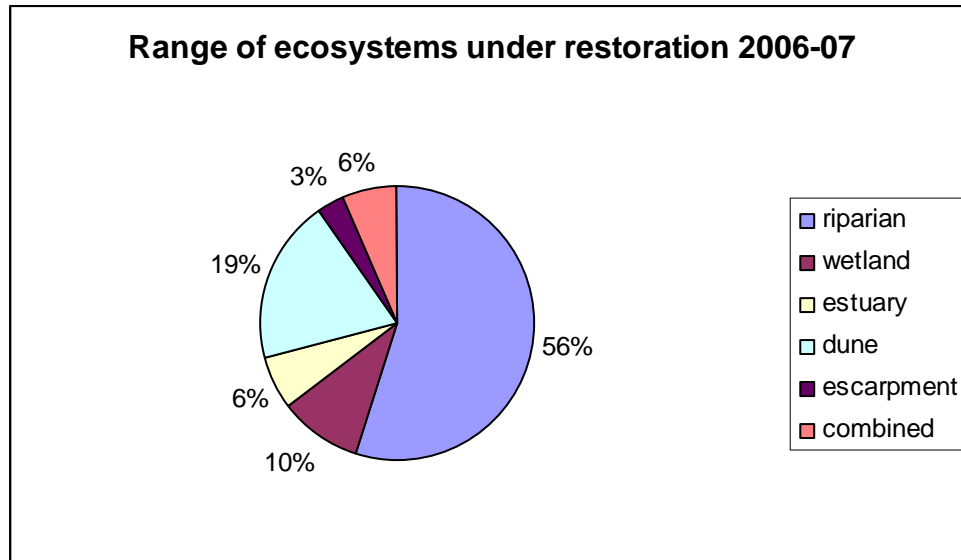


Table 2: Ecosystem types being restored by care groups

Range of ecosystems being restored in 2006-07		
Streams and rivers	17	54.84%
Wetlands	3	9.68%
Coastal dunes	6	19.35%
Coastal escarpments	1	3.23%
Estuaries	2	6.45%
Combination	2	6.45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>

Three new care groups were established during the year, they are: Waihora Watch; Onehunga Bay Beachcare and the Makaracarpas. Funding for three existing groups was extended, these groups are: Henley Trust; Waitohu Streamcare and the Kapi-Mana Branch of Forest and Bird, working to restore the Wharemauku Stream in Kaitawa Reserve.

The key achievements of all the groups supported in 2006-07 are summarised in a table appended to this report (appendix one).

### 4.3 Restoration Day

Over 200 people turned out to celebrate Restoration Day at the historic Tauherenikau Racecourse on Saturday 12 May. Participants enjoyed a wide range of specialist workshops and field trips based around the theme 'Restoring Lowland Forests'.

Held every year since 2001 to celebrate the work of volunteers involved in ecological restoration throughout the region, Restoration Day is organised by the key agencies involved in community restoration projects including Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Ecological Restoration Network and Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and the Royal Forest and Bird Society.

This year's sponsors included Victoria University of Wellington, The Ron Greenwood Environmental Trust, Vynfields and Touchwood Books.

#### **4.4 Performance against budget**

The budget for *Take Care* in 2006 – 2007 was \$265,848. Actual expenditure was \$213,900. The variation was due to staff time budgeted for *Take Care* in the Resource Policy and Environmental Education departments being devoted to activities outside the programme (e.g., Restoration Day organisation, wetland advice, RPS development, and other community restoration projects).

### **5. Communication**

The council's web page continues to be the main source of information about the programme and the activities of groups. A newsletter was also prepared for circulation to all care groups in July 2007. Several groups have developed their own web sites and some also produce and circulate newsletters. The activities and achievements of care groups frequently feature in local newspapers around the region.

### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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**Attachment 1: Appendix 1**

**Attachment 2: Appendix 2**