



Report 08.678
Date 17 September 2008
File WS/08/16/01

Committee Council
Author Cr Ian Buchanan, Chair, Catchment Management Committee
Geoff Dick, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Report on the Catchment Management Committee Meeting held on 4 September 2008

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Catchment Management Committee that took place on 4 September 2008 at the Masterton office.

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. Reports

3.1 Maintaining the Gains – the Future of Possum Control in the Region

Peter Gaskin, Chair of the local TB Free Committee spoke in support of this item in public participation and stayed on to listen to the debate. Mr Gaskin noted the considerable expertise and intellectual capital held by Regional Council staff.

The Committee had a wide ranging debate on the matter and there was a general consensus that Council should consider the implementation of a Regional possum control programme. Managing possums was considered core business and the Committee did not want to lose the wider benefits from the Tb vector control programme in the roll back areas.

Cr Buchanan as Chair advised the Committee that Council would need to consider the affordability of the programme, and its priority, before including in the proposed LTCCP for public consultation.

3.2 Future Funding of the Regional Bovine Tb vector control programme

Wayne O'Donnell introduced this item. Cr Buchanan spoke about the history of Council involvement in the programme and how until recently the programme was seen as a Greater Wellington run scheme.

The Committee noted the changed partnership relationship outlined in the report. This was a significant consideration in the Committee adopting Option C – cease funding, as a basis for consultation with the Animal Health Board prior to Council consideration of the matter.

The Committee's position has now been conveyed to the Animal Health Board in a letter from the Chief Executive.

3.3 Regional Pest Management Strategy

The Committee approved the Operational Plan for 2008/09.

3.4 Akura Conservation Centre

Mr Dick spoke to the business unit's annual report. Akura is in very good financial health but there are some management challenges going forward. These include containing costs, further investment in irrigation to increase production and how to meet the likely demands from the WRECI programme.

3.5 Divisional Managers Report

No significant issues were raised from the Divisional Managers report.

4. Unconfirmed Minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the Committee meeting are attached as Attachment 1.

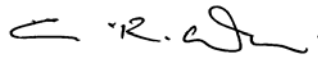
5. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. R. Dick", positioned centrally between the "Report prepared by" and "Report approved by" labels.

Cr Ian Buchanan
Chair

Geoff Dick
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Attachment 1: The unconfirmed minutes of the Catchment Management Committee held on 4 September 2008.