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Committee Council  
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## Report of the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 3 September 2009

### 1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee that took place at The Regional Council Centre on 3 September 2009.

### 2. Divisional Manager's report

Murray Kennedy reported that there were important strategic considerations that arise from the proposed seismic enhancement and increasing the storage capacity at the Stuart Macaskill lakes. In particular, over a two year period, it appears that one lake will need to be emptied each summer for the work to be undertaken. Consequently, the availability of water over the period may be at risk, and, if a drought occurred, water restrictions (hosing restrictions, etc) would be imposed.

Tony Shaw, in response to a query, advised that a seismic risk analysis has been completed, and this was specific to the Stuart Macaskill lakes. A similar exercise was undertaken at the time the lakes were constructed.

Murray Kennedy advised that the planned 1080 drop at Hutt Water Collection Area, Kaitoke West and Akatarawa Saddle took place recently. This exercise ensures that possums are held at minimal numbers and water quality is kept at a high standard. There was some discussion regarding advance notice of 1080 drops, commercial trapping in the catchment and whether this activity provides a worthwhile return to trappers.

Tony Shaw reported that a study of the economic benefits that flow on from Whakatekei dam is underway. A key finding, from initial research on the effect of a seismic event disrupting the water supply, suggests that significant benefits accrue to Porirua and Wellington Cities, with a dam in place, from the water supply system being able to be reinstated quicker.

### **3. Underpinning principles for climate change response**

Alison Lash gave an oral presentation and updated Councillors on the work undertaken since the Councillors' August workshop. A set of guiding principles has been developed and these covered - a collaborative and an inclusive approach with other councils; the use of science; existing plans and policies; the effects of today decisions on future generations; creative solutions; local government to act as advocates and international developments monitored.

In addition, the "regional parliament" concept was discussed. The intention is to have a regular forum with elected members of other councils, which will act as a conduit for actions to be developed into each Councils Annual Plan.

### **4. Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) updated**

Victoria McGregor gave an update on the WRS recent work. Such work covers developing the Genuine Progress Indicators (GPI), the Open Space Strategy, urban design and the broadband initiative. In particular, the GPI, a relatively new concept, is a measure of annual changes to the community outcomes (well being goals). Further work is being undertaken on GPIs in an effort to develop a meaningful measure.

### **5. Parks Network Strategy**

Murray Waititi presented a summary of the issues that had been developed at the Councillors' August workshop. Councillors confirmed the approach taken and these key points will be integrated in the Parks Network Strategy document. There is an opportunity to consolidate the Network Strategy, Network Plan and individual Parks plans into one document. Further work is needed to ensure that this approach fits with the Local Government Act 2002.

A draft strategy document, an example of which was circulated, will be developed further and presented to the Committee meeting in October.

### **6. Information for deliberations on the draft Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan**

The Committee deliberated on the public submissions and hearings that were heard earlier in the year. Significant progress was made and a revised plan will be taken to the next meeting of the Committee.

### **7. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

Report prepared by:



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