

Report 10.83
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Committee Regional Sustainability
Author Murray Kennedy, General Manager, Utilities and Services

Group report for period ended 28 February 2010

1. Group performance

This report also includes some information on activities that occurred after 28 February 2010.

1.1 Strategic

The first of the mini hydro-electric generators installed at the Te Marua Water Treatment Plant has been performing well and a report on the total electricity produced for the year will be available after year end. Tenders for the second hydro to be installed at Wainuiomata have been evaluated, as noted in the manager's report, and it is expected that a decision will be made shortly on which Tender to accept.

A report on planting more trees on Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) land for carbon sequestration purposes is being prepared as part of the climate change policy work. It is expected that it will be available for either the next Committee meeting or the subsequent one.

Before consideration can be given to submitting an application for a reduced flow consent at the Kaitoke weir, some remaining fieldwork has to be completed. This requires a relatively low flow in the Hutt River. Usually the flow is low enough some time in March.

1.2 Parks

The issue of the impact of rats and mice was raised at the last Committee meeting. The manager has responded to this in his report.

There has been effective goat culling during the period as part of our ongoing work to control the number of animal pests in the parks, forests and water supply catchments.

Project Kaka controlled by the Department of Conservation is under way and we are assisting them through monitoring in the Hutt Water Collection Area.

There have been a number of vacancies in Parks, particularly at the ranger level, and these are starting to be filled.

1.3 Marketing and Design

Monitoring of visitor numbers to the parks was carried out in February and this will be reported to the Committee in May. However, given the summer conditions in February, it is expected that numbers may be less than last year.

The water conservation advertising was concluded earlier than planned because of lower than average demand and the Stuart Macaskill Lakes being full.

1.4 Water Supply

A number of taste complaints were received by Porirua City Council and relate to a period when water from the Stuart Macaskill Lakes was being treated. Although the algae were removed during the treatment process, the taste can still remain. Fortunately the situation does not occur very often and we are able to use powered activated carbon (PAC) to remove the taste once we know about the issue. However, PAC is expensive and we only use it when needed.

We have been proactive with our communications for two pipelines projects. Firstly the Kaiwharawhara Stream crossing near Zealandia (formerly Karori Sanctuary) and secondly the replacement of a pipeline in Wainuiomata. As a result of this information, we have had to answer only a few queries from the public.

1.5 Development and Strategy

Porirua City Council is notifying its decision to Plan Change 7 regarding wind farms. Although turbines will be non-complying if they are located closer than 700 m from the boundary of the wind farm site, this will not preclude them being closer but any application will need to be more rigorous in its assessments.

The Electricity Industry Bill was verbally mentioned at the last Committee meeting and further work has resulted in a submission being made.

A replacement contract with RES New Zealand Ltd for the Puketiro wind farm is about to be signed.

1.6 Emergency Management

I attended a six monthly meeting of the Steering Committee for *It's at our Fault* project in February. Previously Jane Bradbury was GWRC's representative on the Steering Committee.

2. Financial results for the period ended 28 February 2010

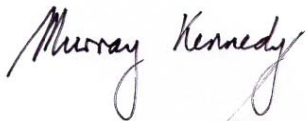
Last year		This year		
Year to date		Year to date	Full year	Full year
Actual		Actual	Forecast	Budget
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Water Supply				
18,011	Income	18,243	28,104	28,332
(18,288)	Expenditure	(18,432)	(29,139)	(28,977)
(277)	Operating surplus (deficit)	(189)	(1,035)	(645)
Parks				
629	Operations	897	231	61
2	Assets and Compliance	(1,012)	(1,283)	(723)
(908)	Support	(74)	17	17
(277)	Operating surplus (deficit)	(189)	(1,035)	(645)
Emergency Management				
500	Income	562	547	821
(538)	Expenditure	(512)	(571)	(857)
(38)	Operating surplus (deficit)	50	(24)	(36)

3. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:



General Manager, Utilities and Services Group

Attachment 1

Parks', Marketing and Design, Water Supply, Development and Strategy, and Emergency Management reports for the period ended 28 February 2010