



Report 10.89
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Committee Catchment Management Committee
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CM Group - General Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held on 24 November 2009.

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 Department Managers reports for February 2010 are attached. The Department Manager's reports covering December 2009 and January 2010 period were previously circulated in the Councillors Information Bulletin.

4. Group matters

A considerable amount of time has been spent by Group staff on the Waiwhetu Project since mid December. A number of issues have arisen in this complex project, including increased contaminated volumes, and contaminated sediment being identified in areas previously thought to be clean. A number of meetings of the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Subcommittee have been held to discuss and agree on additional funding. Discussions are occurring with MfE regarding increased central government funding.

A meeting was recently held with the DoC Regional Conservator and Area Managers looking at opportunities to work closer together. Opportunities discussed included:

- Engaging GW as a preferred supplier to undertake pest control work on DoC land, particularly aerial 1080 operations;
- Gaining access to DoC scientists to discuss latest biosecurity and biodiversity advances;

- Providing DoC access to GW technical and operational experts;
- Gaining access to the DoC National Heritage Management System (a major repository for NZ environmental information);
- Enhancing communication lines between the two organisations to maximise awareness of activities and improve opportunities for joint operations.

Regular meetings are intended to progress these opportunities.

MAF Biosecurity are currently seeking comments from regional councils regarding proposed amendments to the Biosecurity Act 1993. Areas that GW is specifically interested in include:

- MAF's leadership roles;
- Clarifying regional council roles and responsibilities for pest management;
- Making changes to regional pest management strategies;
- Enabling strategies to focus on managing pathways and site management; and
- Gaining certainty about Crown obligations to regional pest management strategies.

Comments will be provided to MAF during March. LGNZ is also promoting a NZ wide response.

A future report on proposed amendments will be presented to the Committee for review.

5. Communications (Jim Flack)

Communications liaised with Flood Protection and Hutt City over the release of floodplain hazard mapping material for around 2000 homeowners around the Waiwhetu and Awamutu streams, and lower reaches of the Wainuiomata River. Staff co-ordinated the press release between Chair Wilde and Mayor Ogden for this issue.

The first draft of the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Launch Event Plan was presented to the Wairarapa Moana Establishment Group.

Biosecurity, Land Management and Flood Protection attended the Masterton A&P Show. This forum works well for Biosecurity but is of questionable value for the other two groups. However, it is one of the few events where GW participates in the Wairarapa community as an organisation. The Catchment and Environment Groups will be trialling the use of the Horizons Green Rig at the Otaki Lifestyle Farmers Show in May and the Wairarapa A&P Show at Clareville in October. Staff are reviewing opportunities to take the Rig out to

schools to maximise educational transfer of regional environmental issues and information.

Media activity for the Waiwhetu project has remained prominent in the DomPost, Hutt News, Citylife Wainuiomata and Radio NZ. Press releases were made about increased project expenses, and the clean up of the Waiu Street site.

Flood hazard mapping for the Waiwhetu and Awamutu streams and lower reaches of the Wainuiomata River was well covered in the DomPost and Hutt News. The Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan was well covered in the Wairarapa Times-Age, Wairarapa News and radio.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:



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Attachment 1: Department Managers' update
Attachment 2: Financial report