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Committee Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee  
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## **General Managers' report to Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee meeting 1 February 2012**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

### **2. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

### **3. Environment Management**

#### **3.1 Rimutaka Summit rehabilitation**

During the quarter we developed draft development concepts for the Rimutaka Summit rest area and circulated these to Upper Hutt City Council, South Wairarapa District Council, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) and the Department of Conservation. The main difference between the two concepts was the siting of a pou whenua intended to mark the boundary between tribal territories and commemorate the historic peace treaty between the tribes. Both concepts included a viewing area on top of the hill behind the site where the tea-rooms and toilets once were. NZTA have agreed to provide a substantial amount of fill from the Muldoons Corner project to naturalise the northern slope of the hill where there is now a sharp cutting down to the level area of the site office.

The parties agreed that the most appropriate site for the pou is at the north (hill) end of the carpark, still on NZTA land. The agreed concept is attached. NZTA will facilitate development of the pou with the PNBST.

Greater Wellington is now working with the contractors, Hawkins, to rehabilitate the site in line with this plan and their commitments under the agreement we have with them regarding their occupation of the site. This includes their provision of fill, topsoil, creating the path up to a lookout area, bollards and other minor improvements. Our staff will fell the pine trees to waste, when there is time available. We plan to plant in the autumn on the site.

Upper Hutt City Council and South Wairarapa District Council have agreed in principle to each fund one small sign to be posted on the approaches to the summit area indicating that toilets are available in Upper Hutt and Featherston respectively. (The "welcome" signs shown on the plan are not yet funded.) NZTA and Greater Wellington are responsible for clearing rubbish around their respective sites.

Any concessionaire will be required to bring a portaloos and provide for associated rubbish collection. Once the site is rehabilitated we plan to call for expressions of interest from potential operators.

There is still quite some concern about improving the safety of the right hand turn into the carpark safer (ie for those vehicles travelling from the Wairarapa), and that issue is not yet resolved.

There is no detailed plan or funding for any interpretation of the site, tourist information associated with the area, or for the shelter as indicated on the plan. However, now that we have a concept there is a base for working from, which is useful. Positively Wellington Tourism is interested in working with us to ensure any tourist information complements other regional promotional material, as this is such a high profile site.

#### **4. Development**

We have been working with Capital and Coast District Health Board and Hutt Valley District Health Board staff to review essential services in an emergency. This is part of our Lifelines work.

At the last committee meeting a number of persons spoke during public participation about the concession application to reinstate the Rimutaka railway on the old alignment through the Pakuratahi forest area. Their comments were noted and will be included with the public submissions that that been called for. A report on the application is being prepared for the Council meeting on 15 February.

#### **5. Water Supply**

Demand over the early summer period has been below average for this time of year. The average daily supply during December was six percent less than the 2006-2010 December average, while the 116ML supplied on 30 December is the lowest daily total in collective memory. The highest demand day to date (162ML) was on 24 December. Demand has peaked at over 200ML in the last decade.

Work on the Stuart Macaskill Lakes upgrade project is progressing to schedule despite some liner quality issues that have now been addressed.

Relocation of the Pipelines workshop, office and emergency stocks has been delayed by building consent issues and the completion date has slipped by about eight weeks to end of April 2012.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee*

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

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