

Report 13.85
Date 4 March 2013
File E/11/01/04

Committee Council
Author Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment
Management Group

Report on the Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting 5 March 2013

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Environmental Wellbeing Committee that took place on 5 March 2013.

2. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

2.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

3. Report

3.1 Flood Protection – Investigations Programme 2012-15

The Committee approved the reprioritisation of the planned flood protection investigations programme. The deferral or extension of time frames for some of the investigations will allow the focus of existing resources to be on the renewal of the Western Area river management consents and the development of the Upper Wairarapa Valley Floodplain Management Plans (FMPs). In order to progress the renewal of the Wairarapa river management consents, the FMPs for the Upper Wairarapa Valley must be developed by 2015.

As the FMPs are proving to be more extensive than first thought, the project will require additional resources. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that the Council approve additional capital funding for the completion of Phase 1 of the Upper Wairarapa Valley Floodplain Management Plans. This will be partially offset by the reallocation of the Mangaroa Flood Assessment – Implementation Phase budget (2013-14).

3.2 Quarterly review for the period ending 31 December 2012

The Committee discussed the Whakawhiriwhiri Stream resource consent application which will formalise a stream diversion from 30 years ago. It was noted that there may be opportunities to improve water quality through this process. Initial consultation with affected landowners has been completed.

Land Management officers have been attending Dairy NZ discussion groups in the Wairarapa and there has been strong interest expressed in Land Environment Plans. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for officers from GWRC's Environment Management Group to be invited along to these meetings to discuss potential compliance issues.

The Committee noted that a communications strategy for the finalised design of the Porirua Flood Hazard Maps is being developed and will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee. The strategy will be based on 'lessons learned' from previous flood hazard map projects.

3.3 General Managers' report

The Committee discussed the General Managers' report and in particular noted that as from 18 February 2013, the Forestry Department has been transferred across to Land Management. A draft Forest Sale and Purchase Agreement will be completed by mid April. It is envisaged that a call for tenders on the cutting rights will be made in June 2013, and a report tabled at the September 2013 meeting of Council.

Active management was undertaken in 32 Biodiversity Management Areas, with pest control delivered in 32 and weed control in 29. Seventeen Biodiversity Area Plans are currently being prepared. Some are being finalised in consultation with landowners/managers and stakeholders. A list of high value biodiversity areas within the region is to be circulated to Committee members.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves additional capital funding; \$260,000 (2012-13) and \$36,000 (2013-14) for the completion of Phase 1 of the Upper Wairarapa Valley Floodplain Management Plans project, to be partially offset by the re-*

*allocation of the Mangaroa Flood Hazard Assessment – Implementation
Phase budget (2013-14).*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager, Catchment
Management Group

Barbara Donaldson
Chair