

Report 14.407
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Committee Council
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Report on Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting, 13 August 2014

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee (the Committee) meeting of 13 August 2014.

2. Reports

2.1 Quarterly report for the quarter ended 30 June 2014

The Committee discussed the Quarterly report for the quarter ended 30 June 2014, which provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Environmental Policy, Environmental Regulation and Environmental Science departments.

The Committee received an update on interagency/interdepartmental cooperation and partnerships. Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) officers are continuing to hold discussions with staff from the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry for the Environment as part of on-going efforts to work together more efficiently on the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management and the development of farm plan tools. Officers informed the Committee that it was anticipated the joint venture would be finalised within the next few weeks.

The Committee discussed the Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy (the Strategy). Significant progress was made with Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) agreeing to join the partnering councils (GWRC, Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and Wellington City Council (WCC)) and contribute \$30,000 to the Strategy development fund. KCDC's agreement means that all of the region's territorial authorities (TAs) are now involved in the Strategy in some way; the Wairarapa TAs form part of a "watching brief" who are involved in the process but do not contribute funds, as they have already adopted a combined plan which was recently made operative. It is anticipated that a draft Strategy will be established within the next 12-18 months.

The Committee requested an update on the prosecution against Alan Jefferies. Four charges were laid on Mr Jefferies in 2010 relating to the diversion of the Mangaroa River, associated river works and deposition of fill. Mr Jefferies pleaded not guilty and requested a jury trial, which was originally scheduled for 4-8 August 2014. The trial has now been rescheduled to the week beginning 18 August.

The Committee discussed the Board of Inquiry's draft decision on the New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) Basin Reserve Roads of National Significance project, which was released in July. The draft decision was to decline consent for the project. GWRC will need to await the Board's final decision, which is due to be released at the end of August, and work with NZTA and WCC on any further action.

The Committee also discussed the development of a comprehensive 'strategic compliance' framework for GWRC Resource Management Act compliance programme, which will be a key piece of work undertaken by the Environmental Regulation team during the remainder of 2014. This is an internationally driven piece of work, which is based around the idea that compliance and monitoring should be collaborative and structured processes focused around key issues. It was noted that the risk management aspect of this framework means any reporting could feed in to the Risk and Assurance Committee.

The Committee commended the Environmental Regulation department's performance results for the quarter, in particular the 100% achieved outcome for completing monitoring inspections for resource consents. It was noted that this high quality monitoring will provide a strong starting point for the strategic compliance framework.

3. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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Report approved by:

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