

Report 14.532  
Date 6 October 2014  
File E/12/02/04

Committee Strategy and Policy Committee  
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Engagement

## **General Managers' report to the Strategy and Policy Committee 28 October 2014**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC's) activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

### **2. Catchment Management**

#### **2.1 Flood Protection**

- Draft Pinehaven FMP release and public meeting to happen in October 2014, beginning with public open day on 16 October. Public submission process follows.
- Reviewed Waikanae Environmental Strategy to be officially signed at ceremony by KCDC and GWRC on 15 October. Publishing work is ongoing.
- Waiohine FMP Phase 3 consultation summary report released. Workshop with Waiohine River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee on 30 October. Phase 3 reporting is underway.
- Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga FMP has moved into Phase 2: Options development. We are continuing to work with the community and stakeholders on understanding and applying the flood hazard information.
- Hutt River - City Centre Upgrade Project: The first draft of a strategic assessment to consider an intervention by the stakeholders, HCC, NZTA and GW to improve the resilience of the Melling Bridge was completed. The final report is due by the end of October 2014.
- Jim Cooke Park stopbank reconstruction: Round 1 of the community consultation has been completed. Consultation outcomes and

recommendations on Jim Cooke Park stopbank re-construction will be reported to the Strategy and Policy Committee at the October meeting.

## **2.2 Biosecurity**

- The RPPCP maintenance programme is underway with operations in Kapiti/Porirua (20,800ha) and Wairarapa (16,500ha).
- BioWorks have secured 30,225 ha of Tbfree NZ vector control contracts for the current year, all ground control.
- BioWorks has completed the Project Aorangi aerial 1080 operation covering (28,200ha). Approximately 500 hectares is remaining to be treated once livestock are removed.

## **2.3 Land Management**

- The forestry cutting rights sale process is still to be finally signed off as the reconciliation of three partially harvested blocks has not been agreed. Harvesting has continued in both Metro and Wairarapa forests, despite the fall in log prices in May/June. In recent weeks the price has lifted by \$10/tonne which has recovered part of the fall of \$40/tonne.
- The Akura Conservation Centre has now closed for the year. Operating surpluses are ahead of budget at the end of the first quarter. This is on the back of sales of 30,000 poplar and willow poles and 80,000 native plants. These tallies are the best for some years and reflect the landowner response to both the WRECI and riparian management programmes.
- The 2014 New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM) conference is to be held in Wellington/Wairarapa from the 14-16 October. A day of presentations at Te Papa will be followed by two days of field trips in the Wairarapa. NZARM membership is largely made up of Regional Council staff working in the land and water space, along with scientists from a number of the CRI's, consultants and industry personnel. The conference has been organised by Land Management staff, with their programme entitled "Engagement, Collaboration, Action".

## **2.4 Biodiversity**

- An aerial 1080 operation at Kaitoke Regional Park and Hutt Water Collection Area KNE's has been completed with the pre-feed laid in late August, followed by 1080 bait on 30 September. Water testing will now be carried out and bait and carcasses monitored.
- The Friends of Baring Head Trust, in partnership with the Biodiversity department, were successful in a bid for a \$93,000 grant from the new Community Conservation Partnership Fund administered by the Department of Conservation. The funding will be directed to helping

achieve the objectives set out in the KNE site's three-year plan, including Objective 2 which is to increase native plant dominance.

- Pig, deer and goat control has been underway around the region. The Wainuiomata Mainland Island pig cull was completed in August. A goat cull was also completed across several KNE sites: Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Collection Area, Akatarawa Forest, Battle Hill, Pakuratahi Forest, Akatarawa Forest, Kaitoke Regional Park, Hutt Water Collection Area and Parangarahu Lakes Area.
- Staff have reviewed documents by DOC that inform the 'refreshed' New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. This work is on behalf of the regional councils' Biodiversity Working Group and the aim is to represent the local government perspective.

### **3. Public Transport**

#### **3.1 Wellington City bus network**

The following provides an update on the further targeted consultation on the new Wellington City bus network as requested by the Annual Plan Hearings Committee (who concurrently heard submissions on the Regional Public Transport Plan).

##### **Khandallah, Ngaio and Broadmeadows**

As a result of officers and community volunteer's working together significant progress has been made on the development of options for new bus routes in Khandallah, Ngaio and Broadmeadows.

Consultation brochures have been mailed to the 5,500 households in these suburbs (commenced 15 October). The brochure includes 3 options, and recipients have been asked to note their preferred route option in a web based survey. The consultation closes on 31 October; and it is intended that a preferred option will be identified by the end of this calendar year.

Implementation of the preferred option will be in conjunction with PTOM contracts in 2017. If it is possible to make improvements on a cost neutral basis prior to 2017 this will be considered.

##### **Churton Park**

The process to design bus route options for Churton Park is underway. Officers have briefed the Churton Park Community Association committee on the consultation process. Volunteers from the community have been sought via local newspaper adverts, posters at bus stops and hand-outs on buses. Workshops with registered volunteers have been organised for 22 and 29 October. The volunteers will help to develop options for the local residents to choose between in a community consultation planned for mid- November. It is intended that a preferred option will be identified by the end of January 2015.

#### **4. Strategy and Community Engagement**

##### **Parangarahu Lakes**

The Parangarahu Lakes Parks Network Plan Hearing Subcommittee heard submissions in July and recommended approval of the Parangarahu Lakes Co-Management Plan and adoption of the Parks Network Plan Amendment. Subsequently the Subcommittee's recommendations were considered and supported by PNBST at a Trustee meeting on 26 September. These are now due to be considered by Council at the meeting on 10 December.

##### **Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP)**

The Regional Transport Committee (RTC) has continued to develop the draft RLTP. This has included consideration of the policy framework, outcomes and targets, and prioritisation of the significant activities for the 6 year regional programme. The draft RLTP will be considered by the RTC on 2 December for approval for public consultation. The consultation period will run from 19 January until 13 February followed by a hearing in early March 2015.

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

No decision is being sought in this report.

#### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

Report approved by:

**Wayne O'Donnell**  
General Manager, Catchment  
Management

Report approved by:

**Wayne Hastie**  
General Manager, Public  
Transport

Report approved by:

**Jane Davis**  
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