

Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

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1. Wellington Regional Native Plant Guide (John Holmes)

We have promoted the Guide more heavily recently with a press release last month and telephone calls to those shops that had not taken up earlier invitations to be suppliers. These efforts have been rewarded. Following the release, a few local papers took up the story. Eight more outlets have signed up (to a total of 52) and sales of 550 copies have eventuated (in six weeks). The new retailers appear to have contacted us because of people coming in to ask for the guide, having seen it in the paper. There was also a good article in the Forest & Bird magazine about the Guide.

2. Pauatahanui Inlet (Tim Porteous)

A total of 37 submissions were received on the Draft Vision and Action Plan, 10 of whom asked to be heard. The hearing was set down for the 12th of June. Unfortunately, the extent of the public response means that we will not now be able to report the final Vision and plan to this Committee meeting. I expect it will be reported back at the next meeting of the Committee.

The literature “gap” analysis which will identify areas where we lack information about the ecological and physical processes occurring in the Inlet is being carried out by Boffa Miskell Ltd. This will be finished by the end of the financial year.

3. Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)

Further progress has been made on the first major operational phase of the project, the removal of the coarse debris from the stream (rusting metal, concrete, bricks, roofing iron, litter). This is being finalised and it is expected that this also will be done by the end of June.

4. Protecting Native Bush on Private Land (Tim Porteous)

Tim has been working with staff from the Operations and Biosecurity Departments to develop ways the Council can help landowners to protect indigenous bush on private land. It is important that when the Council offers this service, the various departments that can make a contribution present an integrated service – a one-stop shop – so that landowners are not confused. We are all committed to achieving this result, and are taking the time to work through the options. Tim’s previous experience in this field (as chief executive of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust) is proving invaluable.

As part of this, Tim worked with the Wairarapa Division to stage the Land Protection Day at Te Kopi on May 26th. This was attended by approximately 50-60 landowners.

5. **Environmental Education (Jo Campbell, Richard Morgan, Nigel Clarke, Jo Fagan)**

Work is continuing on the development of the Community Connections (care groups) and Learnwell (environmental trails) programmes. Jo Campbell is reporting separately to the Committee on the implementation plan for Learnwell. Site selection is well underway for the trail sites. Jo and Richard have taken two classes of different ages to Queen Elizabeth and Battle Hill Regional Parks to experiment with activities and equipment to be used on the water trail.