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Report to Environment Committee
from Paul Denton, Policy Advisor

Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for the Wellington Region

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's approval of the 'Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for the Wellington Region'.

2. Background

In 2000, the Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council commissioned an investigation into erosion and sediment control practices for the Porirua City District. This investigation was prompted by reports of sediment plumes entering Pauatahanui Inlet after heavy rain. Aqua Terra International Ltd (ATIL) was contracted to complete the investigation.

A major recommendation from ATIL study was for the Regional Council to update their existing silt guidelines (*Guidelines for Silt Control Associated with Mass Earthworks, 1988*) to take into account new practices, techniques and methods for erosion and sediment control associated with large-scale earthworks.

In 2001, work started on updating the existing silt guidelines with assistance from Lyall Babington and Associates Ltd (Auckland). The new guidelines are based on Auckland Regional Council's Technical Publication 90, - *Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Land Disturbing Activities (TP90)*. ATIL recommended that this document was national best practice and that the Regional Council should base its new guidelines on TP90.

3. **What are the Purposes of the New Guidelines?**

These guidelines are a non-statutory document. They are intended to assist all persons working in earthwork situations with implementing methods and devices for minimising erosion and sedimentation. Although the methods and devices represent current best practice, other effective controls may exist that could suit the topography of specific sites. Furthermore, it is expected that as the engineering science of erosion and sediment control is advanced, there may be refinements of existing methods for achieving erosion and sediment control, and new methods developed. Therefore, the guidelines should be seen as a 'living' document, and may be subject to future revision.

4. **Consultation on the Draft Guidelines**

The draft Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for the Wellington Region was released for consultation in June 2002. A copy of the draft was sent to all territorial local authorities and Transit New Zealand. A letter was also delivered to 35 companies working on major earthwork projects inviting comments on the draft.

Representatives from Transit New Zealand and their consultants Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner Ltd. met with Council staff to discuss the draft guidelines and their relationship to new resource consent conditions on major roading projects in the Region.

The Council received seven written responses on the draft guidelines. Comments from all submitters proved very useful and the majority were taken into account in the final version. A copy of the guidelines will be tabled at the meeting. Attachment 1 to this report is the Contents and Introduction sections of the guidelines, to give Councillors an idea of the scope and purpose of this document.

5. **Communication**

The guidelines will be distributed to all territorial authorities in the Region, Transit New Zealand, and other major earthwork consultants and contractors. A copy will also be made available on the Council's website.

4. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) ***Approves** the Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for the Wellington Region; and*
- (2) ***Notes** that the guidelines will be circulated to all relevant authorities, agencies, and organisations.*

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

PAUL DENTON
Policy Advisor, Resource Policy

JOHN HOLMES
Acting Manager, Resource Policy

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachment

1. Contents and Introduction to the Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for the Wellington Region