



Report 03.314
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Committee Environment
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Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Department Managers' Reports, along with the Divisional Accountant's report follow as attachment 1.

3. Greater Wellington's role in waste management

Many of the submissions to the Council's long-term community plan mentioned waste. Council expressed a wish that the responses point out that waste is primarily a territorial authority responsibility and that the Wellington Region Environmental Agency (WREA) focuses on waste management in the Region.

Waste is one of the Take 10 – Quality for Life elements because (a) this Council is involved in some aspects of waste management – eg pollution control, *Take Charge*, agrichemical waste collections etc; and (b) waste is an important environmental sustainability issue.

During the discussions on submissions, Cr McDavitt mentioned that we should discuss the “waste” issue at the Environment Committee. Unfortunately, there has not been enough time to compile a thorough paper but, as part of my report, I thought it useful to discuss staff's initial thinking on the issue.

For some time now we have been trying to clarify our position on “waste”. Other regional councils have defined a role for themselves. For example, Environment Waikato (EW) has a draft regional waste strategy which shows how EW can help city and district councils, and local communities, achieve their waste management goals. Otago Regional Council (ORC) has a Regional

Waste Plan that became operative in 1997. Environment Canterbury focuses on education and is heavily involved in hazardous waste.

There is also the New Zealand Waste Management Strategy which, according to the Ministry for the Environment, will be implemented –with roles and responsibilities for regional councils. There may even be some financial support available.

Therefore, it seems sensible that this Council devotes some time and effort to clarifying its “waste” role. Our city and district councils vary in their interest and approaches to waste management. We need to talk more closely with them – and with the Ministry and WREA. We can do so this year – and so by the time we get to the next annual planning process we should have a good idea of where this Council should go with regard to waste management.

4. Urban Development Strategy

Councillors had asked for an update on this work. A paper has been prepared by Gael Fergusson from Kapiti Coast District Council. It was presented at the recent Mayoral Forum. This will be reported to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee meeting on 30 June 2003.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

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ATTACHMENT 1: Department Manager's Reports