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**Committee** Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee  
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## **Dairying and Clean Streams Accord: Regional Action Plan**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of the outcome of discussions with the Fonterra Co-operative Group regarding a Regional Action Plan for the Wellington Region.

### **2. Background**

In May 2003 the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord was signed by Fonterra Co-operative Group, Regional Councils, Local Government New Zealand and the Ministers of Environment and Agriculture and Forestry. (Attachment 1)

The accord aims to minimise the impact of dairying on New Zealand's streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands so that they are suitable, where appropriate, for fish, drinking by stock and swimming.

To this end, the Accord sets out performance standards and timeframes for improvement in relation to:

- Exclusion of dairy cattle from streams, rivers, lakes and their banks.
- Replacement of stock crossings with bridges or culverts
- Appropriate management of farm dairy effluent.
- Minimum losses of nutrients to ground and surface water.
- Protection of regionally significant wetlands.
- Development of regional action plans to implement the accord by June 2004.

### **3. Regional Action Plans**

The Accord proposes voluntary Regional Action Plans between regional councils and Fonterra. The accord states that “these action plans will not take the place of any agency obligation under statute or commitment to shareholders or the community and will not be legally binding. These action plans will identify local commitments by regional councils and Fonterra and will describe, where necessary:

- Clear regional time-bound targets for the priority action;
- Programmes to provide necessary information, such as identifying regionally significant wetlands and waterbodies suitable for swimming;
- How the councils and Fonterra will work together and share resources, including providing information and advice to farmers, and links between field staff who work directly with dairy farmers;
- A statement of the compliance and monitoring roles of Fonterra and the council;
- A protocol for evaluating, reporting and reviewing the action plans”.

At its meeting on 8 July 2003, the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee accepted the following recommendation:

*That staff meet with Fonterra representatives and progress development of a regional action plan as set out in the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord.*

On 25 July 2003 staff met with Charlotte Rutherford, Environment Programme Officer from Fonterra. At the meeting it was explained that a Regional Action Plan was intended to be a short (perhaps two A4 sides) and “high level” summary of current initiatives and programmes offered by the regional council and Fonterra.

Clearly, a number of Greater Wellington’s policies and programmes fit well with the content of a Regional Action Plan including the objectives of the following:

- “Take Ten” strategic goals
- Riparian programme
- Wetland programme
- Monitoring programme

### **4. Developing the plan**

The process of developing the plan will involve consultation with key external players, such as Federated Farmers of New Zealand and Fonterra Co-operative shareholders, as well as relevant persons within the Council.

There is a need for one person within the Council to have responsibility for overseeing the development of the Regional Action Plan for the Greater Wellington Region. Tim Porteous, Biodiversity Co-ordinator, will take on this task.

## **5. Recommendation**

*That the report be received and its contents noted.*

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