



Report 04.426
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Committee Environment Committee
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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. Divisional Changes

Councillors will have already received information about changes in the Environment Division. The responsibility for Ara Tahī and iwi liaison is now with the Corporate area. Rawiri Faulkner, Maori Policy Advisor, now reports to Wayne Hastie, Council secretary.

The move recognises that iwi liaison is now broader than the Resource Management Act 1991. In recent years, Ara Tahī has been dealing with an increasing range of issues that span all areas of the Council. The reason for this area of work being located in the Environment Division is no longer valid and it is appropriate that it be located in the corporate area.

Whilst I have some personal regret at 'losing' this area of responsibility, I am proud of the progress that has been made since we first developed the Charter of Understanding and set up Ara Tahī in 1993. It has been an important area of work for me – with a big learning curve – but a very rewarding area.

Other changes in the Division include moving some Regional Policy Statement implementation work from the Environment Co-ordination Department to the Resource Policy Department. The Environment Co-ordination Department will now be called the Environment Education Department.

4. RMA Improvement

Local Government New Zealand has prepared a report, *Enhancing New Zealand's Resource Management Performance* in response to the Government's RMA improvement programme. Murray McLea and Nicola Shorten were part of LGNZ's RMA improvement project team.

I attach a copy of the Executive Summary for your information. A copy of the full report can be found in the Councillors' lounge.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports

Attachment 2: Executive Summary