



**Report** 04.636  
**Date** 12 November 2004  
**File** E/06/18/03

**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. Water Programme of Action

Government's Water Programme of Action is part of the Sustainable Development Programme of Action. The Water Programme of Action includes water allocation, water quality and water bodies of national importance. I have represented local government on the "whole of government" Steering Group and Murray McLea, Resource Policy Department, has been closely involved in one of the working groups. A discussion document has been prepared which is expected to be released on 10 December. The Water Programme of Action aims to improve the management of freshwater decision-making and processes taking a sustainable development strategic approach. Comments will be invited and a targeted consultation process will be carried out. Greater Wellington will undoubtedly be responding to the discussion document.

### 4. RMA improvements

In September 2004, Government announced a package of measures designed to improve the working of the RMA. A Bill is expected to be introduced before the end of the year.

## 5. **Councillors' accreditation for RMA hearings**

As you are aware, one of the recommendations of the RMA improvement review was the accreditation of councillors in RMA hearings processes. We have now registered councillors wishing to go through the training, assessment and accreditation programme. Workshops will be held in February and March next year. Details will be provided nearer the date.

## 6. **Communications**

Keith Lyons, the Divisions' Communications Advisor, is not renewing his contract as he is finding that the workload is exceeding the part time hours available. We are currently considering if and how we can accommodate a full time communications person. Keith has done an excellent job and raised the profile. Thanks to his work, the Environment Division enjoyed over 35% of all stories relating to GW over the months of July, August and September.

## 7. **Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Jane Bradbury**

Divisional Manager,  
Environment

**Attachment 1:** Department Managers' Reports