



**Report**                    **05.23**  
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**Committee**            **Landcare**  
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## **Divisional Manager's report**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

### **2. Managers' reports**

The Departmental Managers reports are attached.

### **3. Welcome to 2005**

It seems these days that every year is bigger than the last and 2005 looks like keeping that trend going. We have a huge amount to get through this year such as

- completing many of the park management plans
- getting the Waiwhetu Stream Floodplain Management Study to a point where it is well advanced
- preparing for Whitireia Park; and
- completing the realignment of the Hutt river at the Ava to Ewen reach.

### **4. Flood 5 and 6 January 2005**

Unfortunately, 2005 did not get off to a good start with widespread flooding across the region. Geoff Dick has completed a flood damage report for this Order Paper so I won't go through the details. However, there are a few points that I think need to be reinforced. Firstly, because things coped reasonably well I think many have underestimated the magnitude of these floods. To put it in perspective, the January 2005 floods were generally larger than the 1998 events. The table below provides comparison between these floods and other recent floods of note.

River	Date	Estimated return period
Hutt River	October 1998 <b>January 2005</b>	25 year <b>25 year</b>
Waikanae River	October 1998 <b>January 2005</b>	20 year <b>80 year</b>
Otaki River	October 1998 <b>January 2005</b>	10 year <b>40 year</b>
Lower Ruamahanga River	February 2004	50 year
Waiwhetu Stream	February 2004	45 year
Wainuiomata River	September 2004	50 year
Lower Manawatu River (Horizons RC)	February 2004	50-90 year
Oroua River (Horizons RC)	February 2004	100-200 year
Whakatane River (Environment BOP)	July 2004	120 year
Rangataiki River (Environment BOP)	July 2004	100 year

I also think that it needs to be noted that the investment that you have made in flood protection works over the last decade or so has paid off. With one notable exception (the Otaihanga flood wall) flood protection structures and works did their job and saved many people from considerable flood damage. In the case of the Otaihanga flood wall we have found the problem and corrected it.

As in all events we have learnt many lessons and should be able to improve our management of the rivers in the future. There is still considerable “debriefing” going on and flood protection staff are meeting with people who were affected. Many of these people are contributing ideas which we may be able to implement.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Division for their dedication during and following the flood. People returned from leave early and many have worked long hours to get the urgent repairs done as soon as possible or to spend time giving advice to those people who have suffered losses in the floods. I am very proud of the Flood Protection team.

## 5. Parks being well used

Parks and Forests have also had a busy start to the year. The Summer Events programme has taken off with a big bang (many of our events have had record turnouts) and the rangers are reporting very high usage since the weather cleared up in early January.

The Summer Events programme is going from strength to strength and its success in the last couple of years has surpassed our expectations. One of the nice things about the Summer Events programme is that it involves so many “parks people”. Almost every Parks & Forests staff member is involved as well as our volunteers, “Friends” groups, and other stakeholders.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. ***Receive the report.***
2. ***Note the contents of the report***

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1:** Departmental reports