



Report 05.502
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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. Return to the Environment Division

Whilst I enjoyed my stint as Acting Chief Executive Officer, it was with pleasure that I handed over the reins to Dave Benham – and it's good to be back in the Environment Division. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank John Sherriff for ably holding the fort during my absence.

4. State of the Environment Report

Three of the reports to this meeting of the Committee relate to the technical background work being carried out for the State of the Environment Report which is scheduled to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

The State of the Environment Report is one of the most important documents that we produce for the Region. It is akin to our "school report" as it reports on our progress in achieving specified environmental objectives.

It is always a difficult report to write. Sometimes we lack adequate information to come to any firm conclusions. Also, we've encountered problems with inconsistencies in data sets, especially between Wellington and Wairarapa. Further, the objectives in the Regional Policy Statement that we are reporting are quite high level and not always easy to measure quantitatively. However, these comments are made with the benefit of hindsight, and are all "fixable" in the future.

Although we are presenting some of the findings to this Committee we feel that, because of the importance of this report and the implications of some of the findings, all Councillors should have an opportunity to discuss issues in a workshop situation prior to the report being released. We are hoping to be able to arrange such a workshop towards the end of the year.

5. LTCCP

The Division's management team is working hard at preparing draft budgets. Because of the wide range of responsibilities within the Division, it is always hard to compare and prioritise projects. We have recently run a strategic directions exercise, in conjunction with part of the Wairarapa Division, on the basis that staff, in the first instance, are the best people to assess their current and future work programmes. Their work then goes through the Division's management team and thereafter the Executive Management team. Councillors can be assured that we are working hard to provide you with the best possible advice on future directions.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report; and*
- 2. Note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports