



Report 06.21
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Committee Environment Committee
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Acting 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. *Measuring Up* – the State of the Environment Report

Measuring Up, the state of the environment report, was released in late December last year. Both the full document and summary report cards were sent to iwi, environmental groups, councils and other interested groups. The release of the report got reasonable media coverage, with a few larger pieces appearing in the Dominion post, largely around water quality and hazards.

4. Exercise Phoenix

Exercise Phoenix IV took place on 25 November 2005. A major exercise, Phoenix tested the functioning of the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group (CDEM) Plan under the direction of the Group Controller. Feedback on the exercise from staff volunteers, outside agencies and observers was very positive, with a final report on the exercise due in March 2006. The Committee will be provided with a copy of the report when it is available.

5. Port and Harbours Risk Assessment

The Port and Harbour Risk Assessment report was completed in early November 2005. This is the culmination of a considerable degree of work, and while not a statutory obligation, the outcomes of the Risk Assessment represent areas in which the Council is obligated, in large part, to act upon. This will present some potentially significant investment decisions in the future, over and above those which are already highlighted as part of the current LTCCP planning round. This issue is the subject of a separate report and presentation as part of the Committee meeting.

6. Seachange Conference Report

Chris Tuver attended the Seachange 05 – Oceans and Coastal Management conference in Auckland in November of last year. Initiated by the Environmental Defence Society, the conference was intended to encourage progress on stalled developments by the government on oceans and coastal water policy. A report prepared by Councillor Turver following the conference can be found at **Attachment 2**.

7. Climate Change and Governance Conference

A Climate Change and Governance Conference is to be held in Wellington, at Te Papa, on 28 and 29 March 2006. The conference will explore the nature and likely impacts of climate change, and options for accelerated action by government, business and the wider community to address these impacts. A copy of the conference programme is attached at **Attachment 3** for your information.

Some members of the Environment Committee have already expressed an interest in attending this conference. Councillors may like to consider at the meeting which members will represent the Council at this conference.

8. Environment Division Quarterly Review to December 2005

The Chief Executive has asked that, in order to provide an additional level of information to Councillors, that the Divisional Quarterly Review be included with the order paper for each Council committee. As such, please find as **Attachment 4**, the Environment Division Quarterly Review to December 2005 for your information.

9. 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

Attachment 2: Report on the Seachange conference from Councillor Turver

Attachment 3: Climate Change and Governance Conference programme

Attachment 4: Environment Division Quarterly Review: December 2005