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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 Management 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. Manager Appointments

Since the last meeting of the Committee, I am very pleased to be able to report that I have confirmed the appointment of Ted Taylor to the position of Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigation, and Al Cross as Manager, Environmental Regulation. I have also appointed Howard Markland to the position of Special Projects Coordinator. In the first instance, Howard will be working on developing the Stormwater Plan of Action.

The formalisation of these appointments now concludes the review of the Division's structure. I have also included as part of the agenda papers a report which confirms the structure of the Environment Management Division, and backgrounds the reasons as to why changes have been made, and how the Division will operate into the future.

4. Regional Policy Statement (RPS) Review – Revised Timetable

Councillors will be aware that we have revised the timetable for the review of the RPS, and will no longer be producing a Draft RPS in February of next year. Key factors in this decision included the acceleration of the WRS and associated consultation process, our commitment to workshop effectively with Ara Tahi, and also recognising the high degree of involvement that our stakeholders have said they wish to have in the review process.

Given these issues, it is considered that there is more benefit in engagement 'up front' in the review process, as opposed to preparing a Draft Policy when we may not have had sufficient time to get the best results from our engagement with key parties.

Prior to the end of this year, we will now hold a workshop with Councillors on 8 November to provide an update on the review process, and to discuss significant issues in relation to our relationship with Iwi in the region. This workshop will provide direction for a joint workshop with Ara Tahī to be held on 22 November 2006. Detailed Councillor workshops around provisions in the RPS will now be held early next year.

5. Wairarapa issues

Consistent with the new structure of the Division, I have asked Managers to spend a little extra time at this meeting to specifically highlight some of the key areas of our work currently occurring in the Wairarapa.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Nigel Corry

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Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports