



**Report**                    **06.552**  
**Date**                     27 September 2006  
**File**                      E/06/18/03

**Committee**            **Environment Committee**  
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Management Division**

## **Environment Management Division structure**

### **1. Purpose**

To update the Committee on the new structure of the Environment Management Division. A finalised management structure diagram can be found as **Attachment 1**.

### **2. Background**

As noted in my Divisional Manager's report, all positions within the Environment Management Division have now been filled. Given this, it is appropriate to provide Councillors with a brief update as to the structure of the Division, and to provide some background as to why some changes have occurred.

The Division will continue to deliver the same core outputs as we always have, and in most ways it is 'business as usual'. We are will however be looking to carry out our business in a more efficient manner across the region.

The overarching aim of forming the new structure of the Environment Management Division was to ensure that management of the environmental activities of the Council was on a functional, rather than geographic, basis. By placing a focus on functional responsibilities across the entire region, we will be able to ensure consistency in processes, procedures, and standards. A move towards a regional focus was signalled in late 2005 by the Chief Executive when the organisational review was commenced, and when both the Environment Management Division and Catchments Management Divisions were first mooted.

### 3. New Structure

In developing a revised structure for the Division, it was important similar functions in both the Wairarapa and Wellington offices were combined. This was the most effective way in which to align processes and to enable coordinated work programmes to be developed. The areas of consents management, resource policy, and resource investigations were most affected by this decision.

To enable a successful integration of our work, a structure needed to be established that allowed the development of a regional work programme that collectively pooled resources (both in terms of staff and finances), and allowed us to work towards meeting regional goals and targets.

I have summarised the resulting changes on individual departments below:

Both the **Harbours Department** and **Environmental Education** departments remained unchanged.

A new **Environmental Policy Department** came into effect which combined the old Resource Policy Department in Wellington, and the policy functions from the Planning and Resources Department in the Wairarapa. Working as one Department across the region allows for a more coordinated approach to submitting on District Plans, and ensures a regional focus as we review the Regional Policy Statement, and begin to focus on pending regional plan reviews. This Department reports to a manager based in the Wellington office.

The biggest change in the structure of the Division was in the creation of the **Environmental Regulation Department**. This Department now reports to a Manager based in the Wellington office, and combines the consents and compliance functions in both the Wairarapa and Wellington offices. In addition, it also included our pollution control functions. The objective of this change was to more closely integrate our compliance and enforcement work, and to develop a more consistent approach to managing consented and unconsented non-compliance. In consent management, there are clear efficiencies that can be gained by standardising our processes and procedures.

It is important to stress that there will be no change to the level of service provided to both our Wairarapa and Wellington consent customers. There will still be staff in the Wairarapa office that people can contact, and who will be able to undertake site visits. Nor will it cost anymore to get a resource consent. As noted earlier, it is very much business as usual, but with an internal focus to standardise processes across the region, and in doing so, to be able to provide an even more efficient service.

This department also incorporates the *Take Charge* function, aimed at business education and compliance. I am hopeful that in the coming months the *Take Charge* programme will expand in its focus and include Wairarapa businesses.

With the consolidation of our regulatory functions, a new **Environmental Monitoring and Investigation Department** was formed to focus our science, monitoring and flood warning functions across the Wairarapa and Wellington offices. All staff now report to one Manager, based in the Wairarapa office.

We can now determine our regional work priorities in a more coordinated way, and importantly, ensure that the linkages with our policy development are well integrated into decision making.

A new **Environmental Support Department** is responsible for coordinating and managing all financial support across the Division, including budgeting, purchasing and debtor management, business planning, quarterly reviews and asset management. This department will also manage the pending review of the Resource Management Charging policy, and will coordinate the consents annual charging process. As you are aware, Richard Waddy is the Manager of this Department.

Finally, Howard Markland has recently been appointed into the newly created position of **Special Projects Coordinator**. Howard will manage specific projects (such as the Sotrmwater Plan of Action) and project manage/coordinate other regional-wide initiatives that require the participation of the number of Departments. This position also manages our Health and Safety responsibilities, and the Quality Management System.

#### **4. Comment**

The new structure has been in place for several months now and I am pleased that all managerial vacancies have been filled. The next step is for Ted Taylor and Al Cross, to review their department's structures.

#### **5. Communication**

We are working with our communications staff to develop a strategy for informing the Wairarapa community, in particular, around changes in Greater Wellington's structure, particularly those in relation to the Environment Management and Catchments Management Divisions.

#### **6. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1:** new structure of Environment Management Division