



Report 07.497
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Committee Environment Committee
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Science and Research Support 2006/07

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee on how the Division's Science and Research budget has been used over the past year.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Environment Management Division has a budget of \$10,000 per annum to support science and research projects undertaken by outside agencies.

Greater Wellington receives a large number of requests each year to support projects. These range from students undertaking theses, to research institutes and consultants seeking contributions to support applications to other funding schemes, e.g., the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund. Many funding schemes require some contribution from end users before committing funds from their budget.

Historically we have found it difficult to support worthy projects from existing budgets. Since 2000, funds have been provided in our budget so that four to five projects could be supported each year. This is consistent with approaches taken by other regional councils.

4. Projects supported

The following projects were supported in the last financial year:

A project towards an MSc(Hons) in physical geography at Victoria University entitled "Dynamics of the saline interface of the shallow unconfined aquifer at

Kapiti and the implications of predicted sea level rise”. Frances Morrow was awarded \$2,000 for this work.

A project towards an MSc (Hons) in physical geography at Victoria University entitled “The long-term hydrological viability of Te Harakeke wetland, Waikanae, New Zealand”. Rebecca Law was awarded \$2,000 for this work.

Landcare Research has an on going project studying the maintenance and restoration of wetlands to which we are contributing \$3,000 for each of three years, the 2006/7 year being the first.

5. Future funding

It is noted that the funds available for this year were not fully allocated. This was a result of limited requests and the review of the divisional structure.

We are preparing for this year’s funding round by developing a list of science and research needs which we will distribute to potential providers such as the local universities. Previously the funds have been provided on a first come first served basis but we intend to receive and review all applications together to ensure that the benefits to Greater Wellington and the provider are maximised.

6. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report; and*
- 2. Notes the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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