



Report 07.760
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Committee Regulatory Committee
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Management

Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about activities that promotes the sustainable management of the region's natural and physical resources by overseeing the Council's regulatory responsibilities in relation to resource management and harbour navigation and safety.

2. Managers' reports

Managers' reports from the Environmental Policy, Environmental Monitoring and Environmental Investigations, Environmental Regulation and Harbours Departments, follow as **Attachment 1**.

3. Regulatory Functions

There are a number of key pieces of legislation that govern Greater Wellington in relation to our regulatory functions, and these will influence the way in which staff report to the Regulatory Committee in the future. Key legislation includes:

- Resource Management Act (1991)
- Maritime Transport Act (1994), Local Government Act (2002) and the Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety bylaws
- Building Act (2004).

Our regulatory functions under the Resource Management Act (RMA), and those which regulate our role in harbour management (Maritime Transport and Local Government Acts), are well established and understood. While these pieces of legislation have been amended since their inception, in some cases a number of times, the primary duties and functions that we are required to undertake as a Regional Council, in a regulatory sense, have remained the same.

The only real exception to this is the introduction of the Building Act 2004, which requires that Regional Councils' become registered Building Consent Authorities to manage Building Act requirements with relation to dams. Regional Councils' must be accredited by 31 July 2008 to undertake these functions, or have transferred this requirement to another Regional Authority.

4. Reporting to the Regulatory Committee

Consistent with our statutory functions in the area of regulation, the principal work of the Environment Management Division to be reported through the Regulatory Committee will relate to our consenting, compliance and enforcement work, as well as our pollution control and incident response work (of both consented and uncontested activities).

Other key regulatory functions include our responsibilities for managing navigational safety in our harbours, developing and implementing regional plans, submitting on territorial authority plans and consents, and the monitoring of the regions natural and physical resources.

The reports that make up this agenda represent the way in which these issues have been reported on in the past, which is via manager's reports, and regular 'standing' papers. Other issues based papers are prepared when required. By way of example, I have highlighted some papers presented in the previous 12 months which would likely relate to the work of the Regulatory Committee:

- Limited Delegation of Enforcement Powers – Pilot Trial with the Hutt City Council
- Implementation of National Environmental Standards for Air Quality
- Plan Change to the Regional Coastal Plan and Regional Freshwater Plan
- Review of the Resource Management Charging Policy
- Review of the Wellington Regional Navigation and Safety Bylaws

At an appropriate point, it would be useful to have a discussion in relation to how the Committee would like to see reporting from staff occur into the future.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports