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Committee Council
Author Cr Sally Baber, Chair, Regulatory Committee
Nigel Corry Divisional Manager, Environment
Management

Report on the Regulatory Committee Meeting held on 10 June 2008

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regulatory Committee that took place on 10 June 2008.

The following summary is in agenda order.

2. Reports

2.1 Methyl Bromide

A verbal update on the use of Methyl Bromide for log fumigation was given.

Protocols and arrangements between Greater Wellington and CentrePort are working well. All testing to date confirms very low levels of discharge going past the CentrePort boundary (less than 1ppm), and staff are comfortable that the activity continues to comply with the rules in the Regional Air Plan. CentrePort has also engaged Sinclair Knight Mertz to undertake a modelling programme.

There was also some discussion around the possibility of a purpose-built enclosure, to allow for capture and destroy technology, being built by CentrePort. It was agreed that some written material would be prepared to ensure that key messages are being presented to the media and interested groups.

2.2 Recreational water quality report 2007/08

A report on the annual recreational water quality monitoring programme was presented. This monitoring takes place during the period 1 November to 31 March (inclusive) each year, with the results assessed against the national recreational water quality guidelines published by the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Health. As with previous years, the report concluded that recreational water quality at both freshwater and marine bathing

sites were strongly influenced by rainfall. The majority of monitored sites exceed 'action' guidelines at least once following rainfall, reflecting the effects of diffuse source agricultural and urban stormwater runoff.

2.3 Plan effectiveness monitoring reports: (Regional Soil Plan and Regional Air Quality Management Plan)

Two Regional Plan effectiveness monitoring reports were presented to the committee. One of these reports was on the Regional Soil Plan, and the other on the Regional Air Quality Management Plan. Effectiveness monitoring reports are required to be completed under the Resource Management Act, and are designed to assess the effectiveness of policies and rules in plans through reviewing material such as state of the environment monitoring information, compliance data and feedback from interested parties.

It was noted that there are some limitations in reviewing the effectiveness of plans in that accessing information can be difficult (such as from the consents database and around the monitoring of permitted rules). With regard to the Soil plan, it was concluded that while the Plan's provisions have led to improvements in sustainable management practices and the management of erosion prone land, most rules would benefit from at least minor changes. The Air Plan review drew similar conclusions, although in relation to some rules, particularly around discharges to air of smoke and odour, it is suggested that some rules would benefit from a complete re-write.

It was noted that a paper on the pending reviews of Regional Plans would be presented to the next meeting of the Regulatory Committee. This paper would address some possible options and timeframes around the review of our Regional Plans.

3. Standard reports

Regular summary reports on decisions made on non-notified resource consent applications, pollution control incidents, and the Council's input into city and district planning were also provided. It was agreed that this information would be made more readily available on Greater Wellington's website in the future so to be more publicly accessible.

4. Beacon Hill visit

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee visited the Beacon Hill Signal Station. While there, Councillors were given a tour of the existing station, and were provided with a brief history of the changes and additions to the station over the years. Some time was also spent on discussing the location and design of the proposed new station, and taking in the view on what was a perfectly calm day.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

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Cr Sally Baber
Chair, Regulatory Committee

Nigel Corry
Divisional Manager,
Environment Management