



Report 08.860  
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Committee Parks, Forests and Utilities  
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Water Supply, Parks and Forests

## Divisional report for period ended 31 October 2008

### 1. Divisional performance

#### 1.1 Parks

As the Manager, Parks comments, this has been a busy period for the parks. It is good to see progress being made on Wairarapa Moana. The decision on exactly where this fits within Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) parks structure is still to be made.

As a result of a previous Council decision, a number of documents are now being put out for public consultation.

We are pleased to be able to support the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park in their application for funding to extend the Bush Remnant at the park. This is a good example of external funding being used to assist in the park development. The Honda TreeFund, which is mentioned elsewhere in the report, is another example.

#### 1.2 Marketing and Design

The previously approved Annual Report for Parks has been distributed and a separate report for consideration at this Committee meeting is for the Water Supply Annual Report.

Our Regional Outdoors Programme for the coming summer is one of the major initiatives organised by GWRC for our parks. We are fortunate in having *Our Region* as a vehicle to promote details of the events to homes within the Region. However, this is also supported through GWRC's web site and other means of communication.

Unfortunately we are still having some difficulties with our water supply customers to agree a uniform approach to such issues as garden watering restrictions. Having a high degree of commonality makes advertising, when needed, much more effective.

Water usage since April, when the metering year starts, is slightly less than in the previous year. This is possibly because of more rain this year compared with during spring last year.

### **1.3 Forestry**

For once the stars are starting to be aligned with regard to forestry. Depreciation of the New Zealand dollar with regard to the United States' dollar, reduced oil prices, and lower international demand for shipping leading to reduced daily ship charter rates, all assisted improved with Forestry returns. As long as export demand for logs does not drop off too much, Forestry returns for the next few months should continue to improve.

### **1.4 Water Supply**

At present river flows are about average and this should assist with refilling Lake 1 at Te Marua once the repair work is completed within a few days. Repairs have been particularly difficult, with continuing adverse weather and the need to carry out for a very specific design for the construction joint.

Statistics New Zealand has just released their population estimates as at 30 June 2008. Metropolitan Wellington now has an urban population of 381,900. This means there is now a 4% probability of a shortfall (1 in 25 year drought).

While it was unfortunate that Hutt City Council had a minor *E. coli* contamination, it did test our capacity to respond to such an event by running our rarely used standby chlorination plant at the Waterloo Water Treatment Plant.

### **1.5 Development and Strategy**

Development work for the new water sources is ongoing. In particular, an application for a resource consent at the Kaitoke weir is being prepared and discussed with other stakeholders. This application will not be made until the Council has formally approved the project.

We are continuing to work with other sections of GWRC on the Regional Water Strategy.

The impact of a major seismic event is a key issue for the water supply infrastructure and we are continuing to work on a range of projects that will offer some degree of mitigation.

## **2. Financial performance for the four month period ended 31 October 2008**

Details of the financial performance are shown in the following table:

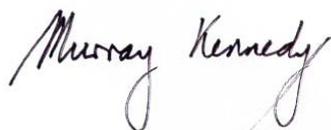
Last year Year to date Actual \$000s		Year to date Actual \$000s	This year Full year Forecast \$000s	Full year Budget \$000s
	<b>Water Supply</b>			
9,065	Income	9,074	27,255	27,325
(8,603)	Expenditure	(9,029)	(28,638)	(28,789)
<u>462</u>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>45</u>	<u>(1,383)</u>	<u>(1,464)</u>
368	Operations	291	450	350
707	Strategy and Asset	224	(419)	(400)
(670)	Support	(481)	(1,423)	(1,423)
30	Engineering Consultancy	11	9	9
27	Laboratory Services	--	--	--
<u>462</u>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>45</u>	<u>(1,383)</u>	<u>(1,464)</u>
	<b>Plantation Forestry</b>			
1,696	Income	1,449	6,836	7,436
(2,268)	Expenditure	(2,094)	(7,130)	(7,650)
<u>(572)</u>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>(645)</u>	<u>(294)</u>	<u>(214)</u>
	<b>Reserve Forests</b>			
422	Income	342	1,923	2,023
(707)	Expenditure	(696)	(2,178)	(2,258)
<u>(285)</u>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>(354)</u>	<u>(255)</u>	<u>(235)</u>
	<b>Parks</b>			
2,135	Income	2,153	6,466	6,466
(1,933)	Expenditure	(2,110)	(7,119)	(7,119)
<u>202</u>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<u>43</u>	<u>(653)</u>	<u>(653)</u>

### 3. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

1. **Receives the report.**
2. **Notes the content of the report.**

Report prepared by:



Divisional Manager, Water Supply, Parks and Forests

**Attachment 1:** Parks', Marketing and Design, Forestry, Water Supply, and Development and Strategy reports for the period ending 31 October 2008