



Report 09.194
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Committee Catchment Management
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Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee - meeting update

1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 April 2009

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 Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee (WHCAC) met on 6 April 2009 to consider matters relating to an upcoming landscape inventory project, the impact on Akura funding models of proposed developments, an update on recent LTCCP meetings held throughout the Wairarapa, and discussion on future consultation with the Animal Health Board.

Minutes from the meeting are attached.

4. Comment

Key outcomes from the meeting were:

- Scott Ihaka, Policy Advisor based in Masterton presented an outline of a new landscape inventory project for the Wairarapa to give effect to Method 49 of the Regional Policy Statement. The inventory will contain information on the physical characteristics that make up our landscapes and will be passed on to the District Councils to ensure that their Plan gives effect to the protection of those that are outstanding or significant. Committee members were nervous of the subjective

approach to determining significance and wished to remain in close contact with the project.

- Three amended funding models of the proposed Stage II development at Akura were presented. The funding models were (1) lease 8 hectares in 2009, (2) lease 8 hectares in 2012, and (3) buy 8 hectares in 2012.

Currently the LTCCP has the Stage II development planned for 2012. The Committee had previously agreed to advance the acquisition and development of new land to 2009; however they requested the funding models to clarify the impact on the business. Members were strongly of the view that the lease option was the best and passed the following resolution:

Moved (Michael Blundell/Jamie Falloon)

“That the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee recommends that Stage II of the Akura Nursery development proceeds with the lease 2009 option and with a capital injection.”

- Cr Buchanan has instigated a series of five rural meetings to discuss matters in the LTCCP that had a direct impact on the hill country community. 60 farmers attended the meetings and heard presentations relating to WRECI, Akura development, Bovine Tb and possum predator programmes. There was strong support at all meetings and submissions will be presented at the LTCCP hearings.
- Members discussed the opportunity to engage with the Animal Health Board over strategic and funding issues that are likely to emerge in the next three months. An invitation will be extended to the AHB to meet with the Committee to discuss matters of mutual interest.

5. Communication

A number of communication issues were identified, including

- Preparation of a submission from the Committee to the 2009/19 LTCCP.
- Rural Focus is to be circulated after Easter and will contain articles on
 - Afforestation Grant Scheme update
 - The effect of sediment on rivers and coastlines
 - Streams Alive programme
 - Ballance Farm Environment Award winners

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1 – WHCAC Minutes 6 April 2009