



Report 09.365
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Committee Council
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Report of the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 18 June 2009

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee that took place at the Regional Council Centre on 18 June 2009.

2. Regional Parks and Forests survey

Peter Glen of *Peter Glen Research* presented the initial results from the recent survey undertaken as part of the strategic review of Regional Parks and Forests. The objective of the review is to get a clear understanding of what the community want from their Regional Parks and Forests over the next 20 years. Peter Glen is in the process of finalising the analysis and formulating the final report. That report will be made available to Councillors when completed.

3. Divisional Manager's report

Murray Waititi reported that the Arbor Day tree plantings had been a great success. In addition, he commented that the possum control operation in the Hutt Water Collection had been delayed because the Medical Officer of Health is yet to sign off on the conditions needed to re-open the catchment for water collection after the operation.

Tony Shaw advised that consultants have reviewed the Stuart Macaskill lakes ability to withstand the effects of a major seismic event. A comprehensive study has been undertaken and a report is being finalised detailing the options available. However, it is clear that some work is required to comply with the new dam legislation. A report will be provided to a future committee meeting.

Councillors inquired about the relationship between the *Battle Hill Sustainable Land Management Plan* and the individual *park management plans*. Mr Waititi advised that findings from the SLM plans will be integrated into each park's *management plan* over time.

Mr Shaw briefed the committee about the security of the water supply following a movement of the Wellington fault both for the existing network and assuming that water is available from the Whakatikei dam. A key finding was that the water supply to Wellington and Porirua could be reinstated more quickly – in a 4-5 week (compared to a 6-8 week) lead time with the Whakatikei dam in place.

In response to a query regarding the Puketiro wind farm Mr Shaw advised that a new contract with the developer is presently being negotiated.

4. Sustainability at CentrePort

Neville Hyde presented initiatives CentrePort were undertaking to make their operation more sustainable.

Some of the initiatives undertaken to date are:

- Waste recycling
- Introducing digital water meters
- ‘Green star’ rating any new building developments
- Directing water runoff from roads through swale drains onto vegetation
- Promoting rail to transport logs
- Replacing existing pier fenders with recycled plastic ones
- Replacing straddle carriers with more fuel efficient motors
- Removing inground fuel storage
- Investigating the use of wind turbines to generate power

5. Visitor monitoring framework – update

Amanda Cox presented the findings of the recent visitor monitoring undertaken in the Akatarawa Park Forest. She advised that some of the visit counts were suspect because vehicle counters on gravel roads gave poor recordings.

6. Regional climate change response

Alison Lash introduced the paper, emphasising that the preparation of a regional response plan is a collaborative exercise with city and district councils in the region and that the discussion document is the first step in preparing a response plan. It was prepared by working group of officers from different councils in the region. Greater Wellington is co-ordinating the process. The intention is for the document now to be discussed at officer level within councils and to hold a regional officers’ workshop in late July to discuss different council responses. The input from this workshop is to be used to develop the regional response plan. The Committee requested that a workshop for Greater Wellington councillors, perhaps with Ara Tahi, be held on the discussion document. Councillors were complimentary of the collaborative approach to this work.

7. Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS)

Melanie Thornton updated the Committee on progress with the WRS. An annual summit is planned on 29 October 2009 and all businesses, Councils and Councillors are welcome to attend.

8. Public participation

Alex Hills, a Lecturer of Architecture, from Victoria University gave a presentation on a 'plant room' which is Wellington's entry in the *Sustainable Habitat Challenge 09*.

Molly Melhuish presented a late submission to the Regional Policy Statement which focused on sources of sustainable energy.

9. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:



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