



Report 09.05
Date 15 January 2009
File WS/08/16/01

Committee Catchment Management
Author Wayne O'Donnell, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held on 20 November 2008.

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 Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

4. Divisional matters

Welcome to 2009. I trust all Councillors and Appointed Members had a relaxing and refreshing break over the Christmas and New Year period.

National Pest Management Strategy (NPMS) Tb Review

Despite the change in position, I have continued my role as the regional council representative on the NPMS Stakeholder Review Committee. The review process is progressing steadily with the aim of stakeholders agreeing on the new Strategy option and objectives before the end of March. Five options are currently being considered:

- containment within existing infection boundaries
- progressive rollback of boundaries
- rapid, short, and medium term eradication.

The AHB are providing costings and estimates of Tb risk for each option. Once this information is reviewed, stakeholders aim to collectively agree on a preferred option. The costs for implementing this option will then be reviewed

and tested. Stakeholders will then need to agree on funding apportionment. MAF are currently producing a funding principles paper that will outline the Crown's perspective on apportionment.

Staffing

Changes have occurred in the Support Services Department following a review in late 2008. Long serving staff member Kevin O'Conner decided to retire from the Council. Another long serving staff member, Neville Shakespeare, will also leave in March after completing a small contract for GW. Both of these staff have given excellent service to GW and predecessor organisations over many decades.

Two part time staff are to be appointed in Support Services in accounts and facility co-ordination roles.

A Divisional Workshop is planned for staff in February. This will give all Catchment Management staff an opportunity to work collectively on a number of key issues that affect our work programmes. Staff will also receive updates on proposed new activities listed in the new LTCCP.

Geoff Dick will continue to be the Acting Manager of BioWorks until the end of March. At this point discussions with the AHB regarding our future vector management responsibilities should be concluded. The new proposed NPMS objectives should also be known. A review of our future roles in the Tb Strategy will then be considered.

5. Communications (Jim Flack)

The work of the Catchment Management Division was widely covered in the region's print media with articles and pictures on:

- KNE / Reserves predator control benefiting more pork chicks in an Upper Hutt reserve
- GW's role in the Afforestation Grant Scheme
- The regional didymo awareness campaign

The success of these stories was largely due to working closely with the media, creating genuine photo opportunities or supplying quality photographs. There was less success with a press release on introducing broom shoot moth as a bio-control to control the pest plant broom in a Porirua Reserve.

Communications continues to play a significant liaison and support role for the Wairarapa Moana project. The project is working to establish a wetland park on the public land around Lake Wairarapa, Lake Onoke and their surrounding wetlands.

Communications is co-ordinating GW's presence at the Masterton A&P Show and the Catchment Management Division's Workshop for all staff at Tauherenikau. Both events are in February.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

Wayne O'Donnell
Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Attachment 1: Departmental Managers' Report
Attachment 2: Financial Report