



Report 09.660
Date 19 October 2009
File WS/08/16/01

Committee Council
Author Cr Ian Buchanan, Chair, Catchment Management Committee
Wayne O'Donnell, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management

Report on the Catchment Management Committee meeting held on 15 October 2009

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Catchment Management Committee meeting that took place on 15 October 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. Reports

3.1 Review of the National Bovine Tb Pest Management Strategy

This report provided an overview of the recently notified amended proposed national Tb strategy, managed by the Animal Health Board. The proposal contains a shift in focus for Bovine Tb management in NZ. The future intention is to determine whether bovine Tb can be eradicated across the full range of Tb wildlife habitats in NZ. Secondly, the proposal seeks to prevent the establishment of bovine Tb in areas currently free of the disease and finally, to steadily shrink the size of the areas currently infected.

This proposal does come with some risks. Firstly, the number of infected Tb cattle and deer may increase as additional resources are focused on the eradication investigation. Secondly, intensity of control may reduce in some regions if the required funds are not available.

Greater Wellington will need to consider and confirm its position on regional funding. Opportunities exist to reset our relationship with the AHB if GW agrees to remain a contributing partner in the national bovine Tb strategy.

A submission on the proposal will be forwarded to the AHB prior to 30 November 2009.

3.2 Hutt River Advisory Subcommittee

This report presented the minutes of the Subcommittee meeting held on 26 August 2009.

The Committee was updated on the preferred alignment for the Mills Street stopbank. The HRAS and Catchment Management Committee had previously resolved to recommend the Yellow alignment option and this had subsequently been endorsed by Council on 29 September 2009.

An update was provided on the proposed changes to the Upper Hutt district plan with the inclusion of flood hazard information. A consultation process with affected landowners will be jointly undertaken with UHCC staff.

3.3 Divisional Manager's Report

The Committee was advised that Richard Grimmett had been appointed to the part time position of Manager, BioWorks for a two year period. This appointment will be reviewed following Council's decision on our future relationship with the AHB.

The Committee was updated on the aerial 1080 operation undertaken by Biosecurity on behalf of the Parks Department. Post monitoring were extremely good. A flood event in the Hutt Catchment triggered the emergency response plan with approximately 250 signs being placed along the Hutt River and staff regularly checking the riverbanks for carcasses. Some poisoned carcasses were recovered but no complaints were received regarding dog poisoning.

Updates were provided on the 2009/10 Bovine Tb vector control programme with over 208,000ha of possum control and over 425,000ha of wildlife surveys to be completed. The number of Tb infected herds in the region totalled four at the end of August. Three of these have already had one clear Tb test. The regional target for June 2010 is eight infected herds.

An update on the Waiwhetu cleanup project was provided with construction of permanent flood protection features, and the removal of contaminated sediments scheduled to commence in late October, early November.

3.4 Site Visit – Upper Ruamahanga River Flood Protection Works

At the conclusion of the meeting, Committee members completed a site visit to the Ruamahanga River east of Carterton. Representatives from Fish & Game NZ, DoC, iwi and the local River Scheme Committee were present. Discussions focused on current flood protection techniques and potential

impacts on river ecology. Alternative management techniques were considered. However, it was recognised that funding was a major limiting factor when considering management options.

4. Unconfirmed Minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the Committee meeting are in Attachment 1.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Cr Ian Buchanan
Chair
Catchment Management

Wayne O'Donnell
Divisional Manager, Catchment
Management

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes of the Catchment Management Committee held on 15 October 2009