

Report 10.11  
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Committee Regional Sustainability  
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## Group report for period ended 31 December 2009

### 1. Group performance

This report also includes some information on activities that occurred after 31 December 2009.

#### 1.1 Strategic

At the last Committee meeting officers were asked to prepare a report on planting more trees in Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) parks and forests for carbon sequestration. Information is being collated for a report but the issue is complex. There are a number of potential benefits, including using trees as a cash crop on maturity, earning carbon credits as part of the Emissions Trading Scheme, and creating different recreational experiences. As an alternative to planting on GWRC land, there is an option of subsidising more trees on private erosion prone land.

Currently about 90 to 95 percent of GWRC parks and forest lands are planted or regenerating. New planting with indigenous species is about an order of magnitude more expensive than planting with exotic trees.

Carbon sequestration will be taken into account in the climate change planning and in the parks' plan review.

On 1 December 2009 there were some changes within the group. The Parks' planners transferred to the Strategy and Community Engagement Group and the Emergency Management Department became part of this group. While Emergency Management has a wide role, as noted in the manager's report, there is considerable synergy with Water Supply, as it is one of the community lifelines that needs to be promptly attended to in any emergency involving a disruption of service.

While the short, medium and long-term options for water supply have been signed off by the Committee in principle, we are continuing to keep a watching brief on changing circumstances that may make some other project more attractive.

As an example, there have been considerable advances in tunnel boring, particularly for small scale tunnels up to say 2.5 m in diameter. Many projects have been successfully completed in New Zealand. Trenchless technology is also improving but this is possibly more suited to pipes of a lesser diameter than our water supply trunk mains.

A separate Committee report reviews progress on the capital works programme for the current year. As new information arises during the year, it is desirable to reschedule some items. These are detailed in the report.

## **1.2 Parks**

The inclement weather for the first two months of summer has not been conducive to high visitor numbers in our regional parks and forests.

As noted in the manager's report, we have been particularly successful with removing animal pests. However, this has to some extent just moved down the food chain and the number of mice has increased

A number of ranger positions are vacant at present and it is expected that by the next Committee meeting we will be able to advise of several new appointments.

## **1.3 Marketing and Design**

A change in direction with advertising our *Great Outdoors* summer events programme through the community newspapers has been successful. Many of the events have been booked out, although by season end a drop in total numbers is expected because of weather conditions.

Demand for water has been down and our rivers, storage lakes and aquifer are in good shape. Accordingly, we have backed off some of the conservation advertising and concentrated on our *Test, target and time* advertisement.

## **1.4 Water Supply**

We have been closely evaluating the required pH and alkalinity of the treated water. Research has shown that we can make some adjustments to these that will result in even less corrosion on pipes within the distribution, local reticulation and household networks. While the adjustments proposed are well within the limits set in the *Drinking-Water Standards for New Zealand*, there could be a problem within the grading criteria for the distribution network. It is unfortunate that the drinking-water standards are much more modern than the grading standards. This is an issue we are discussing with our customers and the Public Health Service, which is responsible for the grading standards.

## **1.5 Development and Strategy**

Following the end of the period, Tenders closed for supply and installation of a water turbine generator to generate power near the Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant. Tenders are still being evaluated and there are considerable differences in the lead times for supply. As is usual for the size of turbine we wish to purchase, they are manufactured specifically for each customer. Based on the expected

recommendation, it has been necessary to adjust the capital works expenditure for the current year and allow for the balance next year.

## 2. Financial results for the period ended 31 December 2009

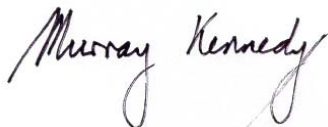
Last year		This year		
Year to date		Year to date	Full year	Full year
Actual		Actual	Forecast	Budget
\$000s		\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
<b>Water Supply</b>				
13,628	Income	13,707	28,104	28,332
(14,032)	Expenditure	(14,008)	(29,148)	(28,977)
<b>(404)</b>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>(301)</b>	<b>(1,044)</b>	<b>(645)</b>
230	Operations	679	977	61
88	Assets and Compliance	(903)	(1,978)	(723)
(722)	Support	(77)	(43)	17
<b>(404)</b>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>(301)</b>	<b>(1,044)</b>	<b>(645)</b>
<b>Parks</b>				
3,242	Income	3,269	6,529	6,508
(3,302)	Expenditure	(3,122)	(6,331)	(6,317)
<b>(60)</b>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Emergency Management</b>				
380	Income	431	821	821
(415)	Expenditure	(400)	(857)	(857)
<b>(35)</b>	<b>Operating surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>(36)</b>

## 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, Water Supply, Development and Strategy, and Emergency Management reports for the period ended 31 December 2009