



Report 11.126
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Committee Council
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Report on the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 16 March 2011

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee that took place on 16 March 2011.

2. Public participation

Mr Ron Oliver from the *Wellington Residents' Coalition* presented a petition against the compulsory introduction of residential domestic water meters on behalf of 17,988 signatories. Mr Oliver explained that the purpose of the petition was to demonstrate that the signatories, almost all members of the Wellington community, rejected water metering as a means of water management and instead promote alternative conservation options for the collection and use of rainwater and greywater.

Ms Barbara Mitcalfe and Mr Chris Horne, representatives of the *Wellington Natural Heritage Trust*, raised some matters relating to the report, *Baring Head – update on research*. Their concerns focused on land being made available for animal grazing, and the use of motorised vehicles. These activities have a potential to destroy vegetation, ecosystems, and the natural landscape at Baring Head. Their suggestions for improved management of motorised vehicles (a nine point plan) covered stopping people using the unformed legal road which follows the coastline, increased ranger patrols, placing signs on the coast road, marking the Fitzroy harbour boundary area, placing heavier gates at access points, placing vehicle proof barriers using concrete blocks and railway lines, driving railway irons along the length of the “driveable” river mouth, the use of cameras, and imposing fines on those who did not comply with any scenic reserve rule.

Mrs Joy Baird, from the *Friends of Baring Head Trust* spoke of the Trust's desire to assist the officers to research the historic and cultural value of the site. In addition, she outlined some of the Trust's own initiatives to undertake biodiversity planning work and, also, to investigate the possible repair of the historic pump shed.

Ms Marie Vanderville spoke on behalf of Briony Drysdale, a thirteen year old, who has made a submission covering water issues to Parliament. Ms Vanderville highlighted that the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* needs to be recognised and that the availability and security of water protected for children.

3. General Manager report

Councillors were advised that rock buttress work was being undertaken at the Stuart Macaskill lakes on the external face of the embankments and the lakes did not need to be drained at this time. The work programme provides for Lake 2 to be drained, starting from September 2011, to enable the internal upgrade works to be carried out. In response to a query regarding the Whiteria Park, Councillors were advised that the draft Park management plan will be presented at a Councillors workshop.

Mr Kennedy, in response to a query regarding the potential use of rain water tanks, advised that the amount of water that rainwater tanks could, if in use, provide, in the event of a drought, around 5% of the amount needed for daily supply. A workshop is planned on the potential use of rain water tanks for emergency water supply to improve resilience, after the next committee meeting.

Mr Van Schalkwyk briefed the Councillors regarding the Council's response to the recent Christchurch earthquake. The Council has provided - excluding our emergency management team's contribution - some 21 volunteer staff, who have completed 122 man days (and some of these were for a 12+ hour shift day) over the three week period since the 22 February. Such work covered emergency response, engineer assistance, communication and welfare assistance work.

In addition, Councillors were advised that a disaster preparedness survey is planned to gauge whether people have responded and equipped themselves following the Christchurch earthquake and recent event in Japan. The survey will be region-wide and undertaken with some assistance from the region's Territorial authorities.

4. Wholesale water supply - security of supply standard

Mr Shaw presented this paper. The contents of the report were taken as read and the recommendation approved.

5. Baring Head – update on research

Ms Sharon Lee presented an update on research undertaken on the Baring Head property and identified some key issues at the property that will be considered in the management planning process, which is to commence in May 2011.

6. Work Programme 2011/12 Parks Planning

The work programme for parks strategic planning for the next year was outlined. Priorities have been set by the Parks Network Plan and recent additions to the regional park network.

7. **Broadband update**

Ms Melanie Thornton, WRS Project Leader, updated the Committee on progress with the development and expected roll out of ultrafast broadband in the region. She outlined the two government broadband programmes: Ultra Fast Broadband Initiative (UFBI) and the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) and the various workstreams being implemented by the Broadband Operational Group (BOG) to allow faster and easier deployment of fibre across the region.

8. **Unconfirmed minutes**

The unconfirmed minutes of the committee meeting are in **Attachment 1**.

9. **Recommendations**

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes