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Committee Environmental Wellbeing Committee
Authors Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management

General Managers' Report to the Environmental Wellbeing Committee on 10 September 2013

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council's activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Catchment Management

3.1 Land Management

3.1.1 Akura Conservation Centre

The Centre has been very busy since it opened for business in the first week of June. There has been a noticeable increase in sales to the public over the last month. Internal sales continue to be associated with internal programmes such as the Land Management hill country erosion and lowland nutrient management programmes, and restoration work associated with Wairarapa Moana.

A new initiative this year has been the growing of willow stock specifically for the Flood Protection programme. This involves the supply of rooted stock as opposed to a pole. Spare land in the new nursery has been set aside to grow this line of willows. They require slightly different management as the pole and its roots are mechanically wrenched from the soil. In certain environments this form of willow provides improved establishment and faster growth. An order for 2,500 willows has been received from Flood Protection for 2014.

3.1.2 Forestry update

Metro Forests

Harvesting continues in one block at Valley View and two in Puketiro. A serious harm injury, a broken ankle, has been reported from the harvesting contractor. Rayonier's own health and safety procedures have been activated and the incident will be investigated by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

The following table provides a summary of the 2013/14 budget and actual performance for July in the Metro forests. A fourth crew has joined the operation for a period of four months. This accounts for the increased tonnage out of the Metro forests. Additionally, this crew has been able to tidy up areas of wind throw in Puketiro.

Metro - July 2013	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget
Volume - tonnes	6,667	9,367	140%
Revenue	\$573,333	\$868,642	152%
Costs	\$325,667	\$498,894	153%
Net Revenue	\$247,666	\$369,748	149%
Stumpage	\$37.15	\$39.47	106.2%

The additional tonnage and increased traffic has put some pressure on the road network, especially on corners and steeper sections. The opportunity will be taken in the next month to ensure the road surface does not present additional hazards for logging trucks.

Wairarapa Forests

The second month of harvesting at Hiwinui has been completed and the very high production levels for June have been sustained. It is anticipated that all of the 1984 crop at Hiwinui will be harvested in this financial year. This is budgeted to yield 24,000 tonnes, which is nearly double the annual tonnage achieved over the last ten years.

The following table provides a summary of the 2013/14 budget and actual performance for July in the Wairarapa forests. The stumpage figure has dropped slightly over the last month, largely due to higher costs associated with road lining.

Wairarapa - July 2013	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget
Volume - tonnes	2,000	3,243	162%
Revenue	\$185,417	\$301,057	162%

Costs	\$109,940	\$183,781	167%
Net Revenue	75,477	\$117,276	155%
Stumpage	\$37.74	\$36.17	95.8%

Forestry Cutting Rights Sale

Stage I of the cutting rights sale process closed on 22 August. A total of 7 tenders were received. These are currently being assessed, prior to a Council workshop on 10 September. Seven company representatives have taken the opportunity to arrange visits through the forest over the past six weeks.

3.1.3 Winter works programme

A total of 9,525 poles have been airlifted onto hill country properties as part of the poplar and willow planting programme. Contractors have been engaged to plant these poles, along with those that do not require the helicopter. To date, a total of 13,000 poles have been planted. This is part of a hill country stabilisation programme that will result in the planting of 20,000 poles.

In addition, some 170,000 pine trees are to be planted on 150 hectares of erosion prone land and 32,000 native plants are currently under order. A good proportion of the native trees will be planted as part of the riparian programme in the Mangatarere catchment and restoration plan associated with the Wairarapa Moana Clean-up fund.

3.1.4 Wairarapa Moana and Mangatarere Catchment

Wairarapa Moana

A number of on-farm Wairarapa Moana projects are now underway following an assessment process to establish landowner priorities on their properties in regards to biodiversity and water quality. Projects have focused on riparian planting, wetland restoration, effluent and irrigation efficiencies and lake shore stabilisation.

Another round of farm assessments will commence through the spring with the continued implementation of the previously identified and approved projects. A series of field days will continue to be held as part of the technology transfer process, which have focused on biodiversity, irrigation efficiency and effluent systems.

Mangatarere Catchment

Visual soil assessments conducted as part of Farm Environment Plans in the Mangatarere identified soil structural decline and loss of macro soil porosity as a common issue on farms. Subsequently, soil management became the theme for the first Land Management Field Day held in the Mangatarere this June. Over twenty individual farmers from the Mangatarere and surrounding districts attended the day, where they heard about soil management from industry members, other farmers and Council staff, before heading out on-farm for a practical demonstration in Visual Soil Assessment.

Farm Environment Plans have now been completed for thirteen farms in the Mangatarere, with winter work having been carried out on all farms. Work currently being carried out includes riparian fencing, planting, farm races, earthworks etc., all with a specific water quality outcome in mind.

In the coming year a further eight Farm Environments Plans will be prepared, bringing the total number of new plans in the catchment to twenty one. We will also be building on the success of our inaugural field day, working with our farmers and industry partners to run another field day and hopefully making this an annual event.



MRS volunteers at the Belvedere bridge restoration site

Land Management continues to work closely with the Mangatarere Restoration Society (MRS). MRS is being used as part of a pilot for the Wheel of Water project, which is a government-funded project on collaborative water resource governance and management. The use of this tool will aid MRS in the development of a whole-catchment action plan, for which they have received a Sustainable Farming Fund grant. Land Management will be a stake holder in the development of this action plan.

3.1.5 Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI)

The first four years of the WRECI programme have been successfully completed. The programme so far has involved four years of plan preparation and three years of planting. The following table summarises progress over the last four years:

		Budget	Actual
Farm Planning			
Plans completed	Number	55	53

Works			
Poles	Number	18,750	22,895
Poles	Area planted (ha)	268	312
Afforestation	Area planted (ha)	150	85
Total area under erosion control	Hectares	418	397
Afforestation Grant Scheme (funded separately)	Hectares	600	900
Financial			
Greater Wellington	\$	525,000	426,229
Hill Country Erosion Fund	\$	525,000	426,229
Farmer contribution	\$	240,000	229,348
Total	\$	1,290,000	1,081,806

The Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) was also a Government funded programme that ran for five years. 2012/13 was the last year of this programme. Council have taken particular advantage of this fund as evidenced by the 900 hectares planted over the last four years. This success has meant that Council's ability to complete afforestation projects using WRECI funding have been limited. This situation will change over the coming years because the AGS is no longer operative.

The Whareama Catchment was one of five catchments selected for the programme and was a major focus for plan preparation in the first four years.

WRECI programme in the Whareama catchment	
Area of catchment (ha)	53,231
Area of land within catchment with WRECI farm plan (ha)	31,389
Percentage of catchment with WRECI farm plan	59%
Four year target # of plans	20
Plans completed to date	26
Completed works (3rd year)	
• Number of poles planted	2,955
• Area of poles planted (ha)	37

Data for the Whareama catchment is now available for three planting years. The following table presents a comparison of the number of poles planted in the third year of the programme, to the five year rolling average for the 18 participating properties immediately prior to joining the WRECI programme. This is the third year that data indicates significantly more poles are being planted on farms as a result of the WRECI programme.

Whareama Pole Programme	Five years prior to joining WRECI	2012/13 planting
Number properties actively participating	8 / 18 (44%)	14 / 18 (78%)
Average pole numbers per participating property	132	211
Total poles planted per year	1,711	2,955
Approximate area pole planted	21.3ha	37ha

Council's contract with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) expired on 30 June 2013. Significant dialogue with MPI staff over the last six months has failed to secure a new contract. While funding for WRECI and other programmes operating at Horizons, Taranaki and Hawkes Bay Regional Councils is not currently at risk, MPI are still considering possible changes to the policy framework for a range of forestry schemes.

The most recent discussions with MPI staff have indicated that the policy review should be completed by December 2013. In the meantime, funding of WRECI for 2013/14 will continue on the same basis as the last four years. It is anticipated that future MPI funding will not materially change as budget has been base lined for future years and it is therefore not a case of securing 'new' funding.

3.2 Flood Protection

3.2.1 Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) Implementation

a) Boulcott/Hutt Project

The Boulcott/Hutt stopbank is now completed, one year ahead of schedule. The contractor's defects liability period will end in March 2014. Staff are currently reviewing tenders received from surveyors to complete the boundary surveys required for the land transfers. Negotiations with Safeway are continuing regarding the security fence and other issues raised by Safeway.

A community planting day was held at Ariki Street on 3 August 2013.

b) Hutt River - City Centre Upgrade Project

Project scoping for the City Centre Upgrade Project is completed. The scoping study has identified that significant opportunities can be realised by combining components of other public projects in the river corridor with the flood protection works. These other projects include Hutt City Council's Making Places Project and NZTA's Melling Intersection Project. Staff will make a presentation on the outcomes from the scoping study to the Regional Management Team of the NZTA on 22 August 2013.

Currently, staff are working on the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Officers' Project Management Group and the design brief for consultants

assisting the preparation of the integrated plan. Staff expect to report on the TOR and provide an update on the project to the 19 September 13 meeting of the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee (HVFMS).

c) Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Work Programme

Work has continued on the new Tauanui delta stopbank. This stopbank, when completed, will provide a gravel trap for the Tauanui River to prevent gravel spilling into the Ruamahanga River diversion channel which reduces its capacity. Work on upgrading the Turanganui stopbank has commenced with vegetation clearing of the existing old stopbanks, in preparation for work to be carried out in the summer.

The house on the Tobin property stopbank up-grade site has been repaired and is ready for sale. The property will be put up for sale once the survey of the property not required for river protection purposes is completed.

3.2.2 Investigations, Strategy and Planning

a) Waiwhetu Stream

Further work is being done to develop the two options preferred by the HVFMS and to refine cost estimates, with the aim of having a preferred option to present to the HVFMS in March 2014.

b) Pinehaven Stream

A draft FMP has been prepared by the consultant team working on the project and this is now being reviewed by GWRC and Upper Hutt City Council (UHCC). A meeting has been scheduled with UHCC and Capacity to receive feedback on the draft FMP with a view to bringing a final draft to the March 2014 HVFMS.

Additional consultation has been carried out with individual residents at their request.

c) Waikanae River

Discussions are ongoing with Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) and Te Ati Awa Whakarongotai to seek their feedback on the Waikanae River Environmental Strategy so that we can finalise our review of this document.

There have been a number of meetings between GWRC, KCDC, the Friends of the Waikanae River (FWR) and other groups regarding the restoration planting on the Waikanae River. The conclusion of these meetings are best summarised in the comments from meeting chairperson, Sir Brian Elwood. Sir Brian said that the cooperation between Councils and the public had created something of value that should be treasured. He said he would take the following points from the meeting to the Councils:

1. That there is support for the Councils to review the policy for planting.
2. That there is support for a moratorium on removal of native trees from the river corridor.

We will continue to work with FWR to ensure all restoration is carried out appropriately. Maintenance of FWR planting sites was also raised as an issue,

particularly the need for FWR to provide for maintenance themselves. A site meeting is being arranged with representatives of FWR, FWR's maintenance contractor, GWRC Flood Protection and GWRC Biodiversity to establish clear expectations about what maintenance needs to be carried out and who will do what.

A Communications Strategy is being developed for the release of the reviewed Waikanae FMP to the community and stakeholder groups, with an emphasis on using this as an opportunity for profile-raising.

d) Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan

A Project Plan has been developed for the remaining Phase 3 work. Consultancy briefs for parts of the work are now being developed. A draft Phase 2/3 Summary Report has also been prepared (summarising the work carried out to date on Phases 2 and 3) and is being internally reviewed. Endorsement of the project plan is being sought through a separate report on the order paper for this meeting.

e) Upper Wairarapa Valley FMP Development

The project is running approximately eight weeks behind programme. Hydrology and geomorphology elements are largely complete. Hydraulic modelling is behind schedule but progressing, with preliminary model results becoming available. Flood Damage Assessment and Erosion Hazard Assessment work is proceeding and work commenced last month on the Ecological Values Assessment, Cultural Values Assessment, Recreation/Landscape Heritage values assessment, and Planning and Landuse assessment. Due partly to earthquake-related disruption, we are now looking at involving external consultants more in this last group of tasks. Community engagement is on-going.

A proposed governance structure for the development of the FMP has been reviewed internally and will be discussed in a workshop on 10 September. This governance structure is not likely to be in place before March 2014.

f) Flood Managers

Consideration is being given to additional weather forecasting and runoff modelling services that are now available from NIWA as a result of development work they have done using their new supercomputer. We will continue working with Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) staff on this matter before any decisions are made about purchasing the services.

3.2.3 Operations and Delivery

a) River and Drainage Maintenance

The recent earthquakes have kept staff busy checking flood protection assets. No major damage occurred, but there was some minor slumping to a Hutt River bank edge at Taita Rock and some trail subsidence along the Otaki River below the SH1 Bridge.

Flooding occurred in the eastern Wairarapa Rivers that flow into the Ruamahanga River on 12 July. A one in 12 year flow was recorded in the

Taueru River and some erosion damage occurred in a number of these eastern rivers. This has been repaired using maintenance work budgets.

The 2013/14 maintenance work programmes have commenced and are progressing to schedule. The current focus has been on the willow and native planting programmes that are now well underway. Staff have also started clearing site lines along the Hutt River for the 5 yearly bed level survey. Annual consent compliance reports have been compiled.

No major drainage scheme maintenance issues have occurred. The OSH improvements to restrict access to electrical cabinets for the pumps have been completed.

During the month, a weed cutting boat was trailed as an alternative to using excavators to clear aquatic weeds from drainage channels. Staff from the Hawkes Bay Regional Council were contracted to clear the Otaki Chrystall's Lagoon and the Mangaone Stream to help reduce the build-up of aquatic weed. The trial was very successful and the method resulted in reduced environmental impacts in the streams. Monitoring will be undertaken to determine how effective the operation will be over time. Given the positive feedback that has been received, we anticipate repeating the work next year and extending it to other watercourses.



Figure: Weed cutting boat operating in the Mangaone Stream

A meeting of the Wairarapa valley rivers scheme chairs is being organised for 4 September 2013. This meeting will be similar in format to the meeting held last year which was well received.

b) Gravel Extraction

Details of gravel extraction volumes are provided in the following table:

River	Extraction Volumes (m ³)	
	FY 12/13	YTD 13/14
Hutt Mouth	29,743	2,205
Hutt	55,437	
Otaki	50,970	8,738

Wairarapa	177,267	
Totals	313,426	10,943

Gravel extraction from the Ruamahanga River system in the 2012/13 year totalled 177, 267m³ and is the lowest amount since 2003/04.

c) **River Management Resource Consent Project**

Good progress continues to be made on the River Management Resource Consent Project. Resource consent applications have been lodged for the Hutt and Waikanae Rivers. Most recently, the application for the Otaki River was lodged on 22 August, with the Wainuiomata River to follow later this year. The focus is now on the Code of Practice with workshops to be held in September. Discussions have continued with Environmental Regulation staff about the applications. A peer review of the ecological components of the Hutt application has been undertaken by external consultants and resulted in a further information request from Environmental Regulation. Staff are working through this information request which will be submitted in late August.

Engagement this period has focused on meetings with Iwi. We have also met with Otaki and Waikanae Friends Groups. The draft monitoring strategy has been submitted and will continue to evolve as more information becomes available.

d) **Asset Management and Planning**

The Flood Protection component of the Council Asset Management Improvement Plan drafted by AECOM consultants has been reviewed. The plan details work activities required during the next three years and includes updating the Flood Protection Asset Management Plan, improvements to information systems, business processes, reporting and quality management. Good progress has been made on improving work order management and there have only been minor project delays as a result of the recent earthquakes.

e) **Health & Safety**

The bi-annual contractor approval process is near completion and will be finalised during August. The 40 contractors who routinely work for the Flood Protection Department have submitted OSH plans of varying quality. A plan to improve contractor OSH processes is being developed and will provide direction on priority areas such as hazard assessment, training and competency, with GWRC working collaboratively to achieve a safer work place.

3.3 Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project

3.3.1 Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Clean-Up Fund Project

Public and private planting days continue, the most recent being at Lake Ferry to celebrate the return of the whitebait. The changeable weather and high water levels have hindered planting and attendance at the planting days.

There has been a concerted effort to obtain agreement from landowners for their potential on-farm works. Currently, approximately \$320,000 worth of projects have been identified (budget for the year is \$495,000). The target grant rate for the year is 50%, with the majority of these funds coming from the MPI contribution.

A number of constructed wetlands have been identified. Based on NIWA's construction costs of \$12/metre squared this would cost \$1.2 million to develop. Further discussions are planned with NIWA staff to develop a priority ranking for these projects.

During the recent set of bird surveys, ferrets were observed being attracted to the bird calling device (a hand held tape recorder) for matuku hurepo (bitterns) and crake. Based on these sightings, an animal pest control network of traps has been installed in and around the Matthews Lagoon/Boggy Pond/Wairio wetlands complex. After a month's trapping, 13 ferrets (some very large) and 3 feral cats (one being 5.6 kilos in weight) have been removed from the site. Biosecurity staff have not trapped such large specimens in recent times.

The recently completed lakeshore bird survey has shown a significant increase in Canada geese. Councillors will be aware that these birds are no longer the responsibility of Fish and Game NZ. The farming community have the ability to initiate culls. The results have been forwarded to the farming community for their action.

Phil Teal, the Wellington region's Area Manager of Fish & Game NZ, attended the recent Wairarapa Moana Management Team meeting for the first time. The Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Governance Group agreed to offer Fish and Game observer status on this team.

A successful technical transfer field day was held at Jane Donald's property just south of the Tauherenikau River delta. Following the presentations in the morning, the 30-35 attendees visited Haywards Lagoon which is managed by the Donald's. Haywards Lagoon is probably the best managed wetland within the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands project.

Flood Protection staff have completed field work and presented a design for the transfer of outflows from Matthews Lagoon to the Wairio wetland complex being developed by Ducks Unlimited. Currently the outflow from Matthews Lagoon is directly to the Oporua Floodway, an arm of Lake Wairarapa. This transfer of drainage water would result in less nutrients being discharged into the lake and would assist in the development of new wetlands with the potential to remove most of the nutrients from this water stream.

Currently the Te Hopai pump drainage scheme pumps directly into Matthews Lagoon (part of the Department of Conservation estate), with no obligation to assist in the management of this wetland. Staff are working on developing a wetland scheme concept, similar to a drainage scheme, where all the drainage ratepayers contribute to the clean-up and on-going management.

3.4 Biosecurity

3.4.1 Memorandum of understanding (MOU) meetings with local TA's

GWRC Biosecurity and Biodiversity staff met with representatives from the local authorities in the west of the region to sign MOU agreements on the joint pest management programmes for the coming year. Meetings with the Wairarapa councils are scheduled to occur shortly.

3.4.2 Nature Central – wilding pine strategy

One of the initiatives of the collaboration of lower North Island regional councils and the Department of Conservation (DoC) was implementing a joint wilding pine management strategy. A Steering Group was formed to establish a working relationship and develop a plan. The objectives of the Lower NI Wilding Conifer Regional Implementation Plan is to develop and enact a coordinated and efficient approach to the control of wilding conifers across the southern North Island.

3.4.3 Pest Animals

a) Akatarawa Forest aerial 1080 possum control 2013

The aerial application of 1080 bait was successfully completed on 29 July 2013, with seven dry nights following the operation. Considerable effort was put in by Biosecurity staff to complete the operation, including installing a large number of signs and clearing bait and carcasses from many kilometres of tracks. Staff placed considerable emphasis on public safety and relations in this relatively high-use public area. Parks staff and Akatarawa Recreation Access Committee (ARAC) volunteers helped to clear the main tracks. Bait and carcass deterioration will now be monitored along with signage. It is concerning to still see dog walkers using tracks on the fringes when signage clearly states to keep dogs out due to the extreme danger from poisoning if they scavenge carcasses. A few signs were initially vandalised and subsequently replaced. No further vandalism has occurred.



Storm Damage in Spicer Forest, Porirua, affecting bait station access



Akatarawa Forest 1080 operation loading site



Signage for the closure of Akatarawa Forest until tracks were cleared

b) Enhancing the Halo

The Morgan Foundation has initiated the HALO project to encourage private landowners to undertake pest control in their own backyard. The Upper Hutt depot is a collection point for landowners who have purchased subsidised traps and bait stations through the HALO website. A Biosecurity officer spoke at the Aro Valley Community Hall in July, promoting the pest control programme in the area. The HALO project aims to make Wellington New Zealand's natural capital, by making all backyards a safe haven for native wildlife.

3.4.4 Pest Plants

a) RPMS programme

The annual boneseed control is well advanced in the ground accessible areas on the Wairarapa coast. Aerial contracts on the steep escarpments in the Wairarapa, western Wellington and Porirua are awaiting calm weather.

Wellington City Council is contributing to the cost of the helicopter work on the south coast reserves.

b) Biocontrol – Japanese honeysuckle – Honshu white monarch butterfly

The Environmental Protection Authority have granted permission to mass rear and release Honshu Monarch butterfly, a prolific foliage feeder specific to Japanese honeysuckle. GWRC was acting as the applicant on behalf of the National Biocontrol Collective. Landcare Research, the research provider, worked for three years alongside their Japanese colleagues to show that this butterfly would be suitable for release in New Zealand.

Japanese honeysuckle vines grow rapidly, creating dense tangled curtains. Honeysuckle can form a complete blanket, shading out small trees and shrubs and is known to cause canopy collapse. Stems produce roots where they touch the ground, helping the vine to clamber across the ground. It also provides support for faster-growing weedy vines, such as morning glory and moth plant. It overtakes native forest remnants, wetlands, pine plantations and shrubland. It is regarded as a serious threat to native flora. Fruit eating birds spread the seeds, but many new infestations originate from material from home gardens dumped on bush and roadside edges.



White Honshu butterfly caterpillar on the host plant

3.4.5 BioWorks

a) 2013/14 Tb Free NZ (Animal Health Board) Programme

BioWorks have 20,850ha of vector control programme planned for the current year. Tb free has asked BioWorks to cost a Western Tararua survey project that covers an additional 5000ha with some very intensive and difficult control areas.

BioWorks have commenced control in the Mt Bruce, Waipoua and Kapiti Buffer projects.

b) Regional Possum Predator Control Programme

Staff are servicing bait stations within the North Wairarapa and Kapiti areas with brodifacoum. Follow up and additional control will be completed in North Wairarapa, Kapiti and Porirua by late August.

c) Aerial Control Project

BioWorks are currently planning three aerial control projects: in Western Tararua and Aorangi Range Crown for Tb Free NZ, and within Project Kaka for DoC. The documentation and planning for the Western Tararua project is almost complete. The project is due to commence in late August through to September. Preparations for Project Kaka are in full swing, although we have not yet received the final contract documentation from DoC. The project is timed to coincide with the native bird breeding season before the end of November 2013. The Aorangi Range Crown operation is planned for June-July 2014.

3.5 Biodiversity

3.5.1 General

The Team Leader, Biodiversity Implementation, resigned in mid-July and the Department Manager is currently acting in the role.

Biodiversity staff coordinated the Catchment Management Group planting day at Wairarapa Moana on July 26. This was very successful and was followed up by a Biodiversity department day out in early August to complete planting the last few of the total 600 plants.

3.5.2 Key Native Ecosystems Programme

A review of the Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) programme is underway. This involves, firstly, reviewing the sites included in the Key Native Ecosystem programme to ensure investment is occurring in a logical suite of high value sites and, secondly, fine-tuning the programme delivery arrangements with Biosecurity.

The annual meetings to discuss KNE Memoranda of Understanding with territorial authorities has commenced. The opportunity is being taken to indicate that, as a result of the review of the Biodiversity Management programme, there may be some changes in the sites supported by GWRC from the 2014/15 financial year. The territorial authorities will be notified in early October this year of any changes.

Planning for the second release of sixty North Island robins into Wainuiomata Mainland Island is well underway. The birds are being captured on Kapiti Island and transferred by helicopter to Wainuiomata.

3.5.3 Porirua Harbour Project

A successful corporate working bee was held at the Pauatahanui Inlet with the Body Shop in conjunction with Forest and Bird.

A pest plant control strategy for previous restoration sites around the Pauatahanui Inlet has been developed and will be implemented from this year.

A restoration plan for Te Onepoto wetland is being developed.

A draft Joint Porirua Harbour Communications Plan in partnership with Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council is in the process of being completed by Communications staff from all three Councils.

A whole of catchment plan, with a focus on reducing sediment inputs into the harbour, is being prepared.

A Porirua Harbour estuarine restoration options report has been finalised. The report highlights the opportunities for enhancement of estuarine areas within the harbour. During the preparation of the plan, stakeholders indicated a strong preference for the first project to be undertaken within the Onepoto arm, preferably at the Porirua Stream mouth. This opportunity is currently being investigated.

3.5.4 Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project

A project brief for a Wairarapa Moana interpretation plan has been jointly prepared with DoC and other stakeholders. When completed, the plan will provide guidance on the types of messages the joint project will be conveying to visitors.

Two planting days occurred at Lake Domain: Matariki planting on 1 August and community planting on 13 July.

3.5.5 Biodiversity advice

Policy and planning advice was provided on five occasions (Table 1). Two were internal GWRC management plans while three were to external agencies.

Table 1: Breakdown of advice provided on policy and planning documents

Policy Document	Advice Provided
GWRC Management Plans	2
Pinehaven Floodplain Management Plan (2 nd draft)	
Scoping for Upper Wairarapa Floodplain Management Plan	
Other statutory	2
HCC District Plan change (pre-application)	
Follow up letter on PCC draft Reserves Management Plan	
Other non-statutory	1
Follow up workshop on WCC Open Spaces and Recreation Framework	
Total	5

Biodiversity staff have also provided advice to Environmental Regulation on five GWRC resource consent applications. Significant and on-going work is being directed toward the pre-hearing stage for the Environmental Protection Authority consent application by NZTA to build the Peka Peka to Ōtaki expressway.

Technical biodiversity advice on a range of ecosystem types was provided to three external and two internal clients in this period.

4. Recommendations

That the Committee

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

Report prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne O'Donnell', written in a cursive style.

Wayne O'Donnell
General Manager, Catchment
Management