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Report to Environment Committee
from Paul Denton, Policy Advisor

Erosion and Sediment Control Project

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the results of a joint Wellington Regional Council / Porirua City Council project on erosion and sediment control practices within the Porirua City.

2. Background

In February 2000 the Wellington Regional Council and Porirua City Council commissioned an investigation into erosion and sediment control practices for the Porirua City District. This investigation was prompted by reports of sediment plumes entering Pauatahanui Inlet after heavy rain. Aqua Terra International Ltd (ATIL) was contracted to complete the investigation.

3. Results

The results from the investigation recommended that improvements be made to the processes and procedures for consent processing, monitoring and communication between parties involved in large-scale earthworks. These are summarised below:

Consent Processing

1. Introduce internal checklists to ensure all aspects of erosion and sediment control procedures are taken into account.
2. Introduce the use of 'practice notes' for joint processing of consents.
3. Ensure there are clear identification of roles between consent processing officers, and monitoring officers.

Consent Monitoring

4. Introduce new systems and checklists for regular site audits.

Education

5. Provide educational field days showing new techniques and ideas in large-scale earthwork mitigation procedures for consent holders, consultants, and contractors.
6. Ensure Council staff have regular training in the latest techniques and procedures for erosion and sediment control practices.

Wellington Regional Council Silt Guidelines

7. Update the existing silt guidelines to take into account new practices, techniques and methods for erosion and sediment control associated with large-scale earthworks.

4. Follow-up Actions

1. A workshop was convened on 16 March 2001 to discuss the report recommendations. The workshop participants included: ATIL personnel, consent planners and policy advisors from both Councils, subdivision engineers and consent management staff from Porirua City Council. This workshop proved to be useful in allowing a full and open dialogue to occur between ATIL personnel and the people working in the area.
2. Currently we are seeking cost estimates for upgrading the Wellington Regional Council Silt Guidelines.

5. Communication

Council staff have had regular meetings and correspondence with officers of Porirua City Council during the investigation period. There will be further communication between these two organisations for the development of new procedures over joint consent processing, monitoring, and education.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and its content noted.

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