



Report 07.360
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Committee Environment Committee
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Management

Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Management Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' reports

The Department Managers' reports, along with the Divisional Accountant's report follow as **Attachment 1**.

3. Beyond the RMA Conference

In late May I attended the above conference organised by the Environmental Defence Society.

This two-day conference explored what the next generation of environmental planning legislation might look like and how to best address the significant environmental issues currently facing New Zealand.

This was a very worthwhile conference with a number of interesting speakers ranging from economic forecasters, council planners to the Chief Judge of the Maori Land Court / Chairperson of the Waitangi Tribunal.

For me, three strong issues emerged from almost all of the speakers, these being: the need for leadership at the central government level; the desirability (or not) of local government reform; and the associated matter of capacity at the local government level.

4. Nicola Shorten

I am pleased to say that Nicola recently returned from nine months parental leave and this is her first committee meeting since returning on 18 June. I am very pleased to have her back as part of the management team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Murray McLea for his significant contribution in managing the Environmental Policy Department in Nicola's absence. Murray ran the department in a very professional manner and I thoroughly enjoyed working with him in this role for the past nine months.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report; and*
- 2. Notes the contents.*

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Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports