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Committee Council
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Management

Report on the Regulatory Committee meeting held on 5 August 2009

1. Purpose

To inform council about the meeting of the Regulatory Committee that took place on 5 August 2009.

2. Reports

2.1 Divisional Manager's report

2.1.1 Ministerial review of PM₁₀ regulation in the air quality standards

On 10 June 2009, Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith announced a review of the national environmental standards for air quality (air quality standards). The review will focus on the regulations in the air quality standards relating to particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀) in diameter. Specifically, the review is addressing three issues:

- the number of permitted annual exceedances of the standard
- the achievability of the 2013 timeline for compliance with the standard
- general compliance aspects of the air quality standards, in particular the significant implications for industry because, after 2013

The review of the PM₁₀ standard has been favourably received by Greater Wellington officers as it has the potential to greatly clarify some existing issues inherent in the standard, and to allow a far more pragmatic approach to managing airsheds that may not comply with the existing standard come 2013.

In brief, while officers are generally comfortable with the annual number of allowable exceedences remaining at one per year, clarification is sought as to make clear that this applies to a calendar year. There is also comfort that the 2013 deadline for compliance is appropriate, as long as there are no punitive resource consent penalties on industry should the standard not be met, or indeed any other financial penalties for failure to meet the deadline. A more collaborative approach in the preparation of action plans for non-complying air sheds, that involves both central and local government, and the effected community, is favoured.

3. Porirua Harbour environmental monitoring – 2008/09 summary

Porirua Harbour has been identified as a high priority for a range of environmental monitoring and Greater Wellington is carrying this monitoring out by working closely with the Porirua City Council through its Porirua Harbour and Catchments programme.

In addition to routine monitoring of the health of Porirua Harbour (such as sedimentation, contamination and habitat loss), special one-off investigations are undertaken as and when necessary; one such investigation was undertaken earlier this year in looking at contamination in surface sediment at selected tidal locations in Porirua harbour, namely at the southern most end of the Onepoto Arm, and near the Porirua Rowing Club. The results of this study showed that there is clear evidence of stormwater-derived contamination (copper, lead, zinc and DDT) in Porirua Harbour. In most cases, however, existing sediment contaminate concentrations only exceeded 'alert' or 'early warning' guidelines which indicates that there is the opportunity for management interventions to prevent adverse environmental effects occurring.

4. Porirua Harbour Strategy management structure

One significant management intervention in and around Porirua Harbour (comprising the Onepoto Arm and Pauatahanui Inlet) is a new management structure to facilitate the development and implementation of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy (the Strategy). Partners to this strategy include Porirua City Council, Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira, Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council. The proposed management structure to support the Strategy development is based on the successful aspects of the Pauatahanui Project, including the development of a Porirua Harbour and Catchment Community Trust (PHACCT) which is modelled on, and could potentially replace, the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust.

The Strategy aims to have a comprehensive strategy and action plan to address environmental issues for the whole of the Porirua harbour catchment by June 2011, and its development is supported by officer led strategy and science reference groups.

5. **Presentation by Peter Hanford, Pauatahanui Catchment Coordinator**

Peter Handford (Pauatahanui Catchment Coordinator) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the achievements of the joint Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington programme aimed at enhancing the waterways and wetlands within the Pauatahanui Inlet catchment. This 'voluntary change' project has been going since 2005, and is jointly funded by Porirua City Council and Greater Wellington. It involves working with property owners to fence and plant areas vulnerable to erosion and the generation of silt that might enter the inlet. This highly successful project has around 20% of the Pauatahanui Catchment now involved, and also promotes retirement of some marginal land, and conversation to forestry.

6. **Regular reporting**

Regular summary reports on decisions on non-notified resource consent applications, pollution control incidents, and the council's input into city and district planning were also provided. This information is readily available on the Council's website to ensure public accessibility of the information.

7. **Unconfirmed minutes**

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

8. **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