

Report 11.410  
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Committee Environmental Wellbeing Committee  
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## **General Managers' report to the Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting on 6 September 2011**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee of Greater Wellington 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**

##### **Large Landscape Initiative**

World Wide Fund for Nature New Zealand (**WWF-New Zealand**) and NZ Landcare Trust are initiating a large landscape initiative with the support of the Tindall Foundation. The aim of this initiative is to restore ecosystems at a landscape scale with the intended outcomes of:

- Improved ecosystem functioning benefiting indigenous biodiversity through increasing the area, condition and connectivity of habitats
- Increased adoption of sustainable land management practices in the productive landscape, helping landowners to adapt to and potentially mitigate the worst effects of climate change
- Increased ecological services including improvement in soil and water conservation, water quality, flood control and carbon sequestration
- Improved social and economic development and increased community resilience to climate change.

Land Management staff are assisting with the development of selection criteria that will guide the ultimate selection of a large landscape that will undergo restoration at a scale not seen before in New Zealand. A large landscape could be an island such as Stewart Island, a peninsula such as Coromandel or even a province such as Northland.

### **Ballance Farm Environment Awards**

A start has been made on the organisation for the 2012 Ballance Farm Environment Awards. The local organising Committee has begun promoting the event and is seeking entries from now until 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011. Judging will take place through January/February 2012 with the Awards evening set down for 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

The 2012 National Showcase is to be held in Wellington in June next year. The 2011 event was held in Hastings and was very successful. Next year's event will be hosted at Parliament and offers the opportunity to showcase the awards to a wide circle of influential people from within the Wellington region.

### **Winter Planting Programme**

A start was made to this programme back in late May and is nearing completion. Despite the disruption caused by the recent heavy snowfall it is anticipated that work will be largely completed by mid-September. Demand for the full range of trees and poles supplied by the Akura Conservation Centre has been very good. In particular properties operating under the new WRECI Plans have generally doubled their annual allocation.

A number of large biodiversity projects have purchased eco-sourced plants from the Centre. In the main these have been Greater Wellington projects associated with Wairarapa Moana. Projects include Wairio wetland restoration, Diversion biodiversity project, Ruamahanga cutoff restoration and Catchment Management Group planting at Lake Reserve. Most of these projects have included volunteer groups including local schools, Rotary Clubs, Forest and Bird, and Ducks Unlimited.

## **3.2 Biodiversity**

The Biodiversity Department has commenced a review of its programmes following the adoption by Council of the Greater Wellington Biodiversity Strategy. This review will feed into the development of an Operational Plan for the department due for completion by 31 March 2012. The Operational Plan will guide the work of the department for a 3 year period.

## 4. Environment Management

### 4.1 Approval of Safety Management System (SMS) update

Mike Pryce, Greater Wellington's Harbourmaster, has prepared Report 11.402 which provides background information on the development of Greater Wellington's Harbour Safety Management System (SMS). The next step is for this document to go to the Council meeting of 28 September 2011 for approval. It will then be submitted to Maritime New Zealand for their formal approval.

## 5. Utilities and Services

### 5.1 Plantation Forestry

The snow storm of 14–18 August resulted in all three logging crews staying home as firstly they were unable to reach their skids through the depth of snow and secondly they couldn't identify the logs in the cutover such was the depth of snow in the gullies.

All three crews worked Saturday 20 August and the Tuckey crews loaded out 19 trucks. Two crews worked on the Sunday.

All roads had to be cleared, most using GW staff and the wheel tractor although large root balls and large fallen trees called for heavier machinery or chainsaw work. All major routes have been cleared and it is estimated it will take another month to clear all of the minor tracks.

The earlier windthrow is close to where the harvest is currently taking place and a strategy to recover what we can is being devised.

Most of the new tree damage appears to be from the weight of snow.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

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