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Committee Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee  
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## **General Managers' report to the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee on 7 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. Utilities and Services**

There was no public participation at the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee on 13 July 2011.

Snow storms occurred in Wellington Between Sunday 14 and Tuesday 16 August that were far more intense than have been experienced for several decades. The heavy snow resulted in serious disruption to the normal operation of bulk water supply system.

On Sunday night power was lost to the Mt Climie repeater station which is critical to our remote monitoring and control of all of Upper Hutt and Porirua reservoirs. The back up batteries last for approximately three days. After two days staff were attempting to transport a portable generator to site but with only a 50/50 chance of success due to the steep access and deep snow. Fortunately the mains power was re-established while the staff were on-route.

On Monday night frequent power failures caused the Wainuiomata and Gear Island treatment plants to shut down which interrupted the supply into Wellington for around four hours. The Wainuiomata standby generator did not start automatically and access to the plant could only be gained by a serious 4WD vehicle.

Fluctuating power levels caused numerous trips of the well pumps at Waterloo, each having to be manually re set by the Waterloo Technician who spent most of the night attending to the hundreds of alarms.

On Monday night power was also lost at the Te Marua treatment plant and at Kaitoke. The source was switched from river to lakes and the treatment plant operated on emergency generator until Tuesday evening. Fallen timber had to be cut away and chains fitted to a 4WD vehicle before staff could gain access to Kaitoke.

Several other problems with communications and power continued until Thursday.

Some reservoir levels were affected, however, no reservoir was out of water and the system recovered within 36 hours.

#### **4. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

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