

1. Catchment Management

1.1 Biosecurity

(a) Overview

Department service provision contracts have been reviewed and preferred service providers selected for the 2011/12 year. Emphasis was placed on health and safety, work place hazards, public liability insurance, auditing and reporting.

Pest plant work has focused on planning operations, including initiating the first round of site inspections to finalise contracts. Boneseed control operations were well advanced in the first quarter.

Pest control in the Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) and TA Reserve programme are on schedule and budget.

(b) Key results to date

- Optimisation of integrated pest animal management in TA reserves is resulting in low numbers of possums and rats over large treated areas
- Biosecurity and Landcare Research staff organised a successful Biocontrol workshop resulting in TA commitment to financially support the purchase of additional biocontrol agents later this year.

(c) Looking ahead

Complete integration of the BioWorks unit into the Biosecurity Department.

(d) Commentary

Biosecurity and Biodiversity staff attended a workshop “Setting the outcomes and measuring performance of regional council pest management programmes” organised by Landcare Research under an Envirolink research contract. Recent reviews have disclosed weaknesses in regional pest management strategies in the degree to which they link programme activities to outcomes for both the pest affected sectors and for the wider community. The workshop concentrated on using consistent wording and process in defining inputs, activities, outputs and then outcomes (in that order) that will allow councils to ensure programmes are achieving their goals and report performance to the stakeholders. This standardisation of regional council pest management strategies and their outcomes will enable fair comparisons to be made and provide a meaningful understanding of the pest management situation nationally.

The first round of aerial rook nest baiting for the region has been completed. No rookeries were discovered in the Western Zone. The number of rookeries has declined markedly from 2009, from 22 to nine active rookeries in 2011. Four regional councils, including GW, have

agreed to share fund an application to register walnuts and macaroni with DRC1339 (a registered bird toxicant) as new vertebrate toxic agents for rook control.

(e) Financial reports

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Biosecurity Funding Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
811	662	662	-	Rates & Levies	3,242	2,649	2,649	-
-	-	-	-	Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
109	43	40	3	Rates Penalties and other external revenue	534	160	160	-
5	3	4	(1)	Investment Revenue	20	17	17	-
27	274	289	(15)	Internal Revenue	195	1,155	1,155	-
952	982	995	(13)	TOTAL INCOME	3,991	3,981	3,981	-
				less:				
484	442	430	(12)	Personnel and Councilor Costs	1,810	1,720	1,720	-
70	85	81	(4)	Materials, Supplies & Services	275	324	324	-
17	13	23	10	Travel & Transport Costs	113	93	93	-
45	36	128	92	Contractor & Consultants	463	513	513	-
162	125	130	5	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	552	460	520	60
91	97	93	(4)	Internal Charges	430	373	373	-
869	798	885	87	Total Direct Expenditure	3,643	3,483	3,543	60
-	-	-	-	Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Bad Debts	-	-	-	-
126	114	114	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	452	455	455	-
26	25	27	2	Depreciation	105	108	108	-
(1)	(14)	-	14	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	(27)	(21)	(21)	-
1,020	923	1,026	103	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,173	4,025	4,085	60
(68)	59	(31)	90	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(182)	(44)	(104)	60
26	25	27	(2)	Add Back Depreciation	105	108	108	-
(1)	(14)	-	(14)	Other Non Cash	(27)	(21)	(21)	-
1	14	-	(14)	Net Asset Acquisitions and Capital Expenditure	(80)	(81)	(81)	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Repaid Debt	-	-	-	-
13	(3)	(4)	1	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	192	74	98	(24)
(29)	81	(8)	61	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT ADDITIONS	8	36	-	36
-	-	-	-	Internal Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	External Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
(29)	81	(8)	89	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	8	36	-	36

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Biosecurity Capital Expenditure Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	107	102	102	-
-	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
(1)	(14)	-	14	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(27)	(21)	(21)	-
(1)	(14)	-	14	Net Capital Expenditure	80	81	81	-

Biosecurity Reserve Balances	Actual Opening Balance \$000	Budget Transfer to \$000	Budget Interest \$000	Budget Transfers from \$000	Budget Closing balance \$000
Bovine Tb reserve	322	-	16	114	224
BioWorks reserve	495	-	25	-	520
	817	-	41	114	744

(f) Financial summary variances

- Biosecurity was \$90K in surplus largely due to under spending in the contract area because of the adverse weather conditions. Major contract expenditure is expected later in the season to coincide with the biological cycle of pest plants and animals.
- The regional share of AHB vector control costs is underspent due to the contribution decreasing from \$520K to \$460K for the 2011/12 year.

(g) Business plan performance indicators

Performance indicator	Performance to date
The operational plan for implementing the RPMS will be achieved and reported in detail to the Council	The RPMS Operational Plan is progressing as planned.
Year 2 of the Regional Possum Predator Control Programme in northern Wairarapa Tb-free zone will be implemented to the satisfaction of the Council	On target. Monitoring results from the first year of the programme will be available early in the second quarter.
Pests will be maintained at very low levels in the following key native ecosystems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 wetlands • 40 native forest areas • 4 coastal escarpments • 2 dune ecosystems 	The focus of the site-led Key Native Ecosystems programme is on the control of pest animals and plants that threaten our regional biodiversity. There are 124 sites under pest plant and/or pest animal control. Sites under active pest management include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 wetlands • 82 native forest sites • 12 dune ecosystems • 7 coastal escarpments • 7 river/estuarine area

(h) Risk analysis

The Biosecurity Department is planning an aerial possum control operation using 1080 in the GW Wainuiomata water catchment area. Although GW has an excellent track record of safe and successful aerial 1080 operations there are risks associated with public perception of this toxin. The time and costs associated with managing risk are constantly increasing as gaining approvals becomes more stringent. The National Pest Control Agency is working with regional councils to provide a wide range of nationally acceptable best practice guidelines to reduce risk and improve national consistency.

1.2 Biodiversity

(a) Overview

Following approval of the Biodiversity Strategy by Council in June, Biodiversity staff have been busy delivering annual work programmes and contributing to the re-design of the Biodiversity Department structure.

Work has also commenced on preparing the department's Operational Plan for the 2012–2015 period. This is due for completion by 31 March 2012.

(b) Key results for the year

- Nine new landowners joined the Wetland Action Plan programme during the quarter bringing the total number of landowners in the programme to 180
- External funds from DOC's Biodiversity Advice Fund were granted for work on five restoration plans
- During the 2011 planting season (July/August) over 11,000 native eco-sourced plants were planted along 4,081 metres of fenced waterway on 37 planting sites.

(c) Looking ahead

Complete the prioritisation review of high value biodiversity sites across the region. Prepare Biodiversity Area Management Plans for each site. Complete an Operational Plan for the Biodiversity Department. In conjunction with the Environmental Monitoring & Investigations Department in EMG, commence the preparation of a Regional Biodiversity Monitoring Plan.

(d) Commentary

Biodiversity Implementation

Freshwater Ecosystems

The focus of the Freshwater Ecosystems programme for the first quarter has been on the collation of all existing information on structures in streams, freshwater fish distributions and freshwater habitat for the Wellington Region. This information has now been collated and a Strategy for Providing Passage for Native Fish has been produced. A GIS database of fish passage information has been constructed. This database uses spatial data to display structures in streams and actual and predicted freshwater fish distributions, amongst other things. It is hoped that the Strategy and GIS database will be useful tools that can be utilised by different departments across the organisation. They can be used to assess and remediate fish passage issues, and aid with the assessment of consent applications for future structures in streams.

Monitoring of whitebait at the Ranguru Floodgate is currently in progress. Fish numbers passing through the gate are being measured to establish the impact of the retrofit of this structure on native fish. This information will help improve our understanding of the impact of floodgates on whitebait and the effectiveness of different management tools. Information gained from this monitoring will be used to help guide management practices for floodgates in the future.

Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Action Plan

Implementation of the Coastal and Marine Action Plan continues with a focus on protection and restoration of the biodiversity values at dunes and estuaries. Support has been given to the new project being led by WCC to eradicate goats from the south western Wellington peninsular which includes coastal areas of very high ecological value.

Staff have been working with PCC, DOC and the Plimmerton Residents Association to see what can be done in and around our KNEs and Parks to protect habitats of the critically endangered Shore Plover that is visiting frequently from Mana Island. Additional predator control, signage and some discrete fencing are planned.

Wetland Action Plan

Implementation of the Wetland Action Plan through the Wetland Incentive Programme continues to grow, especially by working closely with Land Management Officers and Flood Protection staff of GW to actively protect wetlands in the working landscape. Nine new landowners joined the programme during the quarter bringing the total number of landowners in the programme to 180. The focus of the programme has been to provide advice on wetland protection and restoration including planting, pest plant control, and fund fencing materials to enable landowners to physically protect their wetlands.

Wetlands added to the programme were spread over the Region, with the majority of new landowners on in the Kapiti District, South Wairarapa and Masterton.

External funds from DOC's Biodiversity Advice Fund were granted for work on five restoration plans.

QEII National Trust Covenant Assistance Programme

Commitments were made this quarter to two covenant projects which, when completed, will protect 20.5 hectares of high value indigenous ecosystems in perpetuity. The first of these projects will protect six hectares of lowland modified primary forest near Mauriceville, northern Wairarapa. The second will protect 14.5 hectares of lowland primary swamp forest, wetland and secondary forest west of Masterton.

Porirua Harbour Project

The Porirua City Council committed \$2.4 million in its Ten-Year Plan to 2016 for the preparation and implementation of a Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy. The strategy is intended to address concerns about the long-term health of the harbour and covers both the Onepoto and Pauatahanui arms.

Greater Wellington has continued to provide significant input into the development of the Strategy. A draft of the strategy was released for public comment in August and has been favourably received.

Pauatahanui Project

No new landowners were recruited to the programme this quarter, and the emphasis has been on planting and releasing at existing projects.

Streams Alive Riparian Programme

The Streams Alive programme continues to provide an incentives scheme that encourages private landowners to protect and restore their waterways. The focus of the programme is to encourage private landowners to fence and plant. The programme also provides advice on weed control, fencing and riparian planting. During the 2011 planting season (July/August) over 11,000 native eco-sourced plants were planted along 4,081 metres of fenced waterway on 37 planting sites. This year planting has taken place in the Waitohu, Otaki, Karori, Wainuiomata, Mangaroa, Waihora and Upper Raumahanga catchments. As in previous years the promotion of the Streams Alive programme has been via word-of-mouth and the largest uptake of new properties has again been centred around the Mangaroa and Waitohu Catchments. There are currently six new planting sites proposed for the 2012 planting season.

The Streams Alive programme is currently working closely with the Flood Protection Team in Otaki on a project which is seeking to protect and restore the lower reaches of the Waitohu Stream.

Take Action

The Education team began the delivery of *Take Action for Water* to four new schools in Term 3 and continue to work our Term 1 and 2 schools. Several schools have been actively involved in restoration planting in the community: Pauatahanui School at Pauatahanui Stream; Ridgway School at Owhiro Stream; Holy Family School at Okiwai Lagoon; Maungaraki School at Belmont Regional Park; Douglas Park School at Henley Lake.

Our agreement with Meridian, who sponsor school action projects, will finish at the end of the 2011 school year. Schools applied for funding and the following schools were successful.

- St Bernadette's School - \$700 for a school garden
- Kenakena School - \$300 for water tank installation
- Westpark School - \$2000 for a native garden
- Hutt Intermediate - \$3000 for a shadehouse

These projects will be completed by the end of November.

Staff provided a stream testing workshop at the Our Footprints conference for secondary students which was organised by Bishop Viard College.

The Education team have been reviewing future directions for biodiversity education and advocacy. Team members are currently working on aligning programmes more closely with the new Biodiversity Strategy.

Take Care Community Environmental Projects

GW is working with 31 community projects for the 2011/12 year. Although funded by the Biodiversity department, the Take Care programme involves staff across different

departments and groups of the Council working together to help community groups achieve a shared vision of environmental restoration for their area.

Seventy percent of these projects have arisen out of the contestable fund process and 30% are selected by GW staff in response to identified needs, including those groups co-ordinated by Parks, Flood Protection and Land Management.

Winter and early spring is the busiest time for Care groups. They have spent the last three months planting, often involving large, public working bees.

Table 1 below shows the number of care groups by territorial authority. The Kapiti Coast continues to have the largest number of care groups in the region with 39% of all currently funded groups. This reflects the greater number of applications that are made in this district.

Table 1: Regional distribution of care groups 2011/12

Kapiti Coast	12	39%
Porirua	3	10%
Hutt Valley	4	13%
Wellington	7	22%
Wairarapa	5	16%
Total	31	100%

Table 2: Ecosystems being restored by care groups 2011/12

Streams and rivers	21	47%
Coastal dunes	11	24%
Wetlands	6	13%
Estuaries	1	3%
Multi – ecosystem types	6	13%
Total	45	100%

Honda Tree Fund

This year the Honda Tree Fund is providing GW with \$26K. Honda trees make a big difference to our ecosystem restoration capability. This fund is used to support and supplement the work of Care groups and to provide restoration materials and plants for sites where staff work with corporate volunteers.

Parks Pest Control and Restoration

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

A review of last year's work and a reassessment of the next steps in the restoration plan for the Horokiri Stream riparian area restoration were carried out with Parks staff. No planting will be done in this site next winter but contracts will be in place for several phases of pest plant control prior to planting in 2013.

Belmont Regional Park

The possum bait station networks in Korokoro Valley, Speedy's Stream and Dry Creek were refilled, and the control of wilding pines in the Dry Creek block commenced. A nine day hunting stint resulted in the culling of just two goats in the park, the best result ever for this Park.

East Harbour Regional Park

Bait stations in the 350ha mainland island area were refilled with rodent bait by contractors in July and September. MIRO volunteers continued to trap possums in the northern forest, and a contractor culled five deer in the Lowry Bay area.

The Biodiversity field team have continued work on stopping climbing asparagus from colonising the interior of the forest. They have also controlled old man's beard, boneseed, banana passionfruit, tradescantia, holly and pines at the Ferry Road Track and Muratai Track ends.

Kaitoke Regional Park

Old man's beard infestations on Kaitoke Hill were treated by the Biodiversity field team.

Queen Elizabeth Park

A revised pest plant control plan for the park for the period 2011/17 has been completed. In line with the new plan, the Biodiversity field team have been surveying the dunes for boneseed and evergreen buckthorn seedlings and also controlling other invasive species when found. Most plants found have been either karo, boxthorn, climbing asparagus or pines.

Whitireia Park

A night shoot of rabbits and search for possums was carried out by Biosecurity.

Akatarawa Forest

Contracted hunters culled 58 goats in the Maungakotukutuku catchment on the western side of the forest. This area which was last hunted in 2009 contains plenty of goat preferred habitat.

Pakuratahi Forest

Pampas, periwinkle and tradescantia infestations near Tunnel Gully were controlled by the Biodiversity field team, as well as over 400 wilding pines below the Rimutaka saddle.

Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area

Contracted hunters culled 15 goats and 2 pigs.

Parks Special Projects

Wainuiomata Mainland Island

All bait stations and traps in the mainland island were checked in July and September. Eight volunteers from the Kaumatua Tramping Club helped with a check of all the boundary and track bait stations and traps in August. Contractors carried out an intensive pig culling operation.

Key Native Ecosystems/Reserves Programme

The focus of the Key Native Ecosystems (KNE) and Reserves programme for the first quarter of 2011/12 has been the implementation of pest plant and animal control.

Pest plant control has begun in 24 sites so far; four of these sites are wetlands, six sites are dune lands, and the remaining sites are primarily forest ecosystems.

Pest animal control principally to control possum and rodents, but also at some sites mustelids, is being undertaken in 35 sites. Sites with pest animal control are all forest or shrubland ecosystems.

Biodiversity Monitoring and Investigations

Regional Monitoring

An opportunity to assess changes in bird numbers before and after an AHB initial possum control operation is being used to gain new information about the response of fragmented forest remnants to pest animal control. A bird monitoring programme is being set up on the Te Horo plains and in nearby forest prior to a possum control operation that is planned to take place later this year. This type of monitoring has not been done in the region before and the information gained (alongside research planned by other parties), will improve knowledge of how to sustain ecological processes in threatened remnants such as these.

KNE Monitoring

Rodent monitoring in the KNEs was completed in August.

A new bird count regime has been set up in Wellington reserves. WCC contract GW to provide information about any changes in abundance or distribution of birds in their reserves. The new design will improve the quality of the data which will be collected this spring. A similar design has also been set up as a contract for Upper Hutt City. Last year, a

statistically significant increase in whiteheads was recorded, but the other changes in bird numbers were not significant. Keith George is the standout Upper Hutt reserve in terms of diversity and abundance of birds.

Parks and Forests Monitoring

Canopy assessments of selected rata trees in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo and Hutt water collection were completed as part of the Water Supply contract. The condition of these indicator trees has shown an overall improvement over time. Hinau fruitfall plots measured in the Hutt catchment showed no possum damage, but an increase in rodent damage. This trend is confirmed by the results of the Project Kaka monitor completed in August. Rodent tracking has leapt from 15% to 47% as rats continue to reinvade the area that was treated with 1080 in 2009. This was the largest increase seen since monitoring began in December of that year.

Bird monitoring has just been completed in Akatarawa Forest. The only significant change in bird numbers was a large decline in fantail numbers. This is thought to be caused by the unusually heavy snowfalls that occurred this winter. Fantails are more susceptible than other birds to such a dramatic drop in temperature because of the way they feed on flying insects. These insects hide in the foliage if such conditions occur and the birds cannot source their food supply. In Kaitoke Regional Park, kereru numbers are high again with a mean count of 140 birds (counted for one hour over a set transect).

Rodent monitoring in Korokoro Valley in Belmont Regional Park showed continuing low rat and mustelid numbers. In East Harbour, MIRO volunteers found that rat tracking was up to 12% in the mainland island and at 30% outside.

Monitoring of banded dotterel nesting success at Parangarahu and Baring Head has showed marked differences in the success rate of nesting. At Baring Head where the birds are disturbed by 4WDs and are exposed to predators, there have been no chicks fledged, whereas at Parangarahu, where 4WD access is limited and predators are controlled at least three nests have been successful so far.

Wainuiomata Mainland Island

Rat tracking completed in August showed rat levels to be at 1% in the mainland island and at 88% outside – another excellent result for this project. This mirrors the hinau fruitfall results that show 3.6% rodent damaged fruit inside compared to 17.8% in the non-treatment area (a statistically significant result). There was very little possum damage to fruit both inside and outside the mainland island.

(e) Financial reports

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Biodiversity Funding Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	1,091	1,091	-	Rates & Levies	-	4,365	4,365	-
-	2	-	2	Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
-	26	53	(27)	Rates Penalties and other external revenue	-	213	213	-
-	-	-	-	Investment Revenue	-	-	-	-
-	-	32	(32)	Internal Revenue	-	156	156	-
-	1,119	1,176	(57)	TOTAL INCOME	-	4,734	4,734	-
-	-	-	-	<i>less:</i>	-	-	-	-
-	390	418	28	Personnel and Councillor Costs	143	1,674	1,674	-
-	32	85	53	Materials, Supplies & Services	-	382	382	-
-	11	16	5	Travel & Transport Costs	1	65	65	-
-	85	218	133	Contractor & Consultants	29	1,065	1,115	50
-	-	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
-	305	312	7	Internal Charges	-	1,341	1,341	-
-	823	1,049	226	Total Direct Expenditure	173	4,527	4,577	50
-	-	-	-	Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Bad Debts	-	-	-	-
-	90	90	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	-	360	360	-
-	4	6	2	Depreciation	-	22	22	-
-	-	-	-	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	-	(11)	(11)	-
-	917	1,145	228	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	173	4,898	4,948	50
-	202	31	171	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(173)	(164)	(214)	50
-	4	6	(2)	Add Back Depreciation	-	22	22	-
-	-	-	-	Other Non Cash	-	(11)	(11)	-
-	-	-	-	Net Asset Acquisitions and Capital Expenditure	-	(45)	(45)	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Repaid Debt	-	-	-	-
-	148	248	(100)	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	-	248	248	-
-	354	285	69	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT ADDITIONS	(173)	50	-	50
-	-	-	-	Internal Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	External Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
-	354	285	69	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(173)	50	-	50

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Biodiversity Capital Expenditure Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	-	70	70	-
-	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	-	(25)	(25)	-
-	-	-	-	Net Capital Expenditure	-	45	45	-

(f) Financial Summary Variances

Materials and contractor expenditure was below budget due to the timing of various implementation programmes which are scheduled for the summer.

(g) Business Plan Performance Indicators

Performance indicator	Performance to date
<p>The biodiversity implementation programme will be progressed through the following programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland Action Plan • Queen Elizabeth II National Trust private land-protection programme • Freshwater ecosystem programme • Streams Alive riparian planting programme • Pauatahanui Inlet Action Plan • Coastal ecosystems • A review of the Regional Biodiversity Implementation Plan will be completed to the satisfaction of the Council 	<p>Implementation of the Wetland Action Plan through the Wetland Incentive Programme continues to grow, especially by working closely with Land Management and Flood Protection staff to actively protect wetlands in the working landscape. Nine new landowners joined the programme during this quarter bringing the total number of landowners in the programme to 180.</p> <p>Commitments were made this quarter to two covenant projects which, when completed, will protect 20.5 hectares of high value indigenous ecosystems in perpetuity.</p> <p>The focus has been on the collation of all existing information on structures in streams, freshwater fish distributions and freshwater habitat for the Wellington Region. A strategy for providing passage for native fish has been produced and a GIS database of fish passage information has been constructed.</p> <p>During the planting season over 11,000 native eco-sourced plants were planted along 4,081 metres of fenced waterway on 37 planting sites. This year planting has taken place in the Waitohu, Otaki, Karori, Wainuiomata, Mangaroa, Waihora and Upper Ruamahanga catchments.</p> <p>No new landowners were recruited to the programme this quarter, and the emphasis has been on planting and releasing at existing projects.</p> <p>Implementation of the Coastal and Marine Action Plan continues with a focus on protection and restoration of the biodiversity values at dunes and estuaries, plus support for the new project being led by Wellington City Council to eradicate goats from the south western Wellington Peninsular which includes coastal areas of very high ecological value.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy superseded the Plan and was completed June 2011</p>

(h) Risk Analysis

No new risks have been identified.

1.3 Land Management

(a) Overview

Initially dry weather in June slowed winter planting progress for Land Management activities, but recent rainfall has helped establishment rates.

The Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI) programme is progressing very well and planting targets have been exceeded.

The Akura Conservation Centre has produced a very good surplus at the end of this quarter, building on strong sales of poplar and willow poles and sustained demand for native trees.

(b) Key results for the year

- The Afforestation Grant Scheme and an increased interest in forestry as a result of the ETS continued to boost sales of *Pinus radiata* seedlings at the Akura Conservation Centre
- The decision to prepare WRECI Plans in-house has realised savings to budget. These savings have been reallocated to the works programme which will enable key planting milestones to be exceeded for 2011/12.

(c) Looking ahead

A priority will be to secure new nursery land to increase the capacity to produce 8,000 additional poplar and willow poles. The additional demand has been created by the initial success of WRECI. To integrate the new plantings into the existing Akura model a start will need to be made in the spring of 2012.

(d) Commentary

Winter Planting Programmes

An early start was made to the winter planting in the middle of June. This proved invaluable as the season was relatively dry and soil moisture conditions slowed down progress. A couple of very heavy snow storms also caused delays through August. Recent rainfall events have been very beneficial and establishment rates look very good at present. A more formal audit of performance will be completed in March 2012.

There was a late surge in demand for forestry planting and additional tree stocks were required. This demand is fuelled by the ETS and a general increase in interest around forestry.

Akura Conservation Centre

The Centre has returned a very satisfactory performance in the first quarter. Unsold stock on hand at the end of September was very low and only a very small number of poles were not sold. The prospects for a good twelve month result will depend on achieving the budgeted external revenue, especially from 'gate' sales.

Afforestation Grant Scheme

The Afforestation Grant Scheme has been operative for four winters and Greater Wellington has been very successful in securing funding for clients. To date 700 hectares have been established, assisted by grants totalling \$1,577K. These figures represent 21% of the total national allocation.

The Scheme will run until June 2013 and may continue in a new format following the recent MAF review of national forestry schemes.

Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI)

WRECI has now completed two years of activity. Included in this period have been the completion of the first 25 WRECI Plans and the establishment of 3,550 poles and 21.5 hectares of permanent land retirement. These planting figures compare very well with the targets for 2010/11 of 2,500 poles and 25 hectares of land retirement. Since 30 June 2011 a further 5,975 poles and 11 hectares of conservation forestry have been planted.

Plans are underway to engage consultants to begin preparation of a further fifteen WRECI plans. These will be located in each of the five priority catchments as well as two properties that come under the 'hotspot' category. Staff will assist with the preparation of a number of the new plans which will allow funds to be directed to additional planting. MAF have also agreed to continue funding for a student to complete the baseline vegetation monitoring on each of these properties.

Land Environmental Plans

A pilot programme has begun in the Mangatarere catchment to prepare five Land Environmental Plans. Applications have been received from ten landowners interested in participating in the programme and a final selection will be made shortly.

The programme will target intensive land uses within the catchment and prepare Plans that focus on nutrient management, riparian management and soil management. It is hoped that this programme will lead to other catchments within the region and is modelled on the very successful hill country erosion programme. Incentives will be provided to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to assist with a catchment approach to improving water quality in the Mangatarere.

(e) Financial reports

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Land Management Funding Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
413	396	396	-	Rates & Levies	1,651	1,583	1,583	-
16	48	46	2	Government Grants & Subsidies	138	159	183	(24)
300	445	210	235	Rates Penalties and other external revenue	696	840	840	-
2	2	2	-	Investment Revenue	8	9	9	-
19	20	19	1	Internal Revenue	136	79	76	3
750	911	673	238	TOTAL INCOME	2,629	2,670	2,691	(21)
				<i>less:</i>				
232	211	199	(12)	Personnel and Councillor Costs	866	814	794	(20)
52	6	33	27	Materials, Supplies & Services	93	69	134	65
19	11	11	-	Travel & Transport Costs	51	45	46	1
156	227	214	(13)	Contractor & Consultants	569	611	734	123
-	25	6	(19)	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	25	25	25	-
295	421	249	(172)	Internal Charges	617	677	548	(129)
754	901	712	(189)	Total Direct Expenditure	2,221	2,241	2,281	40
-	-	-	-	Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Bad Debts	-	-	-	-
82	84	84	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	329	338	338	-
13	16	16	-	Depreciation	59	65	65	-
-	-	-	-	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	(14)	(20)	(20)	-
849	1,001	812	(189)	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,595	2,624	2,664	40
(99)	(90)	(139)	49	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	34	46	27	19
13	16	16	-	Add Back Depreciation	59	65	65	-
-	-	-	-	Other Non Cash	(14)	(20)	(20)	-
-	-	-	-	Net Asset Acquisitions and Capital Expenditure	(37)	(44)	(44)	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Repaid Debt	-	-	-	-
(2)	(2)	(2)	-	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	(29)	(28)	(28)	-
(88)	(76)	(125)	49	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT ADDITIONS	13	19	-	19
-	-	-	-	Internal Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	External Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
(88)	(76)	(125)	49	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	13	19	-	19

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Land Management Capital Expenditure Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	51	64	64	-
-	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(14)	(20)	(20)	-
-	-	-	-	Net Capital Expenditure	37	44	44	-

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Akura Conservation Centre Funding Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Rates & Levies	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
131	134	150	(16)	Rates Penalties and other external revenue	239	312	312	-
-	-	-	-	Investment Revenue	-	-	-	-
305	386	389	(3)	Internal Revenue	522	507	507	-
436	520	539	(19)	TOTAL INCOME	761	819	819	-
-	-	-	-	less:	-	-	-	-
30	18	18	-	Personnel and Councilor Costs	62	73	73	-
289	279	334	55	Materials,Supplies & Services	477	532	532	-
2	2	3	1	Travel & Transport Costs	9	10	10	-
36	37	44	7	Contractor & Consultants	102	125	125	-
-	-	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
-	1	-	(1)	Internal Charges	5	-	-	-
357	337	399	62	Total Direct Expenditure	655	740	740	-
3	1	3	2	Financial Costs	8	11	11	-
1	-	-	-	Bad Debts	1	-	-	-
8	8	8	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	30	30	30	-
3	3	3	-	Depreciation	13	13	13	-
-	-	-	-	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	-	-	-	-
372	349	413	64	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	707	794	794	-
64	171	126	45	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	54	25	25	-
3	3	3	-	Add Back Depreciation	13	13	13	-
-	-	-	-	Other Non Cash	-	-	-	-
-	-	(25)	(25)	Net Asset Acquisitions and Capital Expenditure	-	(107)	(107)	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
(3)	(2)	1	(3)	Repaid Debt	(13)	2	2	-
-	-	-	-	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	-	(10)	(10)	-
64	172	105	23	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT ADDITIONS	54	(77)	(77)	-
-	-	19	(19)	Internal Debt Additions	(55)	76	76	-
-	-	-	-	External Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
64	172	124	48	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(1)	(1)	(1)	-

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	Akura Conservation Centre Capital Expenditure Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	-	7	7	-
-	-	25	25	Capital Project Expenditure	-	100	100	-
-	-	-	-	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	-	-	-	-
-	-	25	25	Net Capital Expenditure	-	107	107	-

Land Management Reserve Balances	Actual Opening Balance \$000	Budget Transfer to \$000	Budget Interest \$000	Budget Transfers from \$000	Budget Closing balance \$000
Catchment Schemes	178	19	9	-	206

(f) Financial Summary Variances

- Net funding surplus for the first quarter is \$49K
- Farm Plan expenditure (WRECI Plans, Property Plans and Sustainability Plans combined) is ahead of budget by \$54K
- Akura Conservation Centre has a net funding surplus of \$48K due to timing.

(g) Business Plan Performance Indicators

Performance indicator	Performance to date
15 new farm or sustainability plans will be prepared and approved by the Council	Fifteen properties have been selected for new plans and the consultation phase has begun
530ha of erosion prone land will be protected during the year	254 hectares of poplar and willow poles and 90 hectares of conservation woodlots have been established
Catchment schemes will be progressed in accordance with agreed work plans	A start has been made on agreed annual programmes and 26% of the annual budget has been spent
15 events with a land management focus will be supported by Greater Wellington	Four events with a land management focus have been held
Akura Conservation Centre will break even or make a profit	Akura is currently showing a net funding surplus of \$48K
23,000 3m poplar and willow poles will be supplied	18,000 poplar and willow poles have been supplied

(h) Risk Analysis

The national forestry schemes have recently been reviewed by government including the Hill Country Erosion Programme that funds WRECI. The risk around ongoing funding of this programme will not be known until March 2012.

1.4 Bioworks

(a) Summary

New AHB ground control contracts weren't available to start in July and August, which impacted on productivity. Field staff were seconded to other departments and completed additional training.

(b) Key results for the year

Carry over contracts and two reworks were completed in early July. This coupled with no new contracts to commence impacted negatively on income for the first quarter. New contracts were started but not completed for payment during the quarter.

(c) Looking ahead

BioWorks have commenced operational planning for two large aerial 1080 projects (Rimutaka Range and Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Treatment area) that will not realise income until late in the third quarter. A joint team involving BioWorks, Biosecurity, Biodiversity, DoC and the AHB were involved in scoping the larger of the two projects.

(d) Financial reports

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	BioWorks Funding Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Rates & Levies	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Government Grants & Subsidies	-	-	-	-
416	212	432	(220)	Rates Penalties and other external revenue	1,887	1,728	1,728	-
4	6	4	2	Investment Revenue	20	17	17	-
4	13	5	8	Internal Revenue	81	22	22	-
424	231	441	(210)	TOTAL INCOME	1,988	1,767	1,767	-
				<i>less:</i>				
267	242	260	18	Personnel and Councillor Costs	981	1,041	1,041	-
83	21	58	37	Materials, Supplies & Services	206	231	231	-
11	9	20	11	Travel & Transport Costs	79	81	81	-
1	-	25	25	Contractor & Consultants	191	98	98	-
-	-	-	-	Grants and Subsidies Expenditure	-	-	-	-
51	46	39	(7)	Internal Charges	194	155	155	-
413	318	402	84	Total Direct Expenditure	1,651	1,606	1,606	-
-	-	-	-	Financial Costs	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Bad Debts	-	-	-	-
13	14	14	-	Corporate & Department Overheads	100	54	54	-
14	18	19	1	Depreciation	67	76	76	-
(24)	(3)	-	3	Loss(Gain) on Sale of Assets / Investments	(55)	(18)	(18)	-
416	347	435	88	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,763	1,718	1,718	-
8	(116)	6	(122)	OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	225	49	49	-
14	18	19	(1)	Add Back Depreciation	67	76	76	-
(24)	(3)	-	(3)	Other Non Cash	(55)	(18)	(18)	-
24	3	-	(3)	Net Asset Acquisitions and Capital Expenditure	(61)	(90)	(90)	-
-	-	-	-	Net External Investment Movements	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Repaid Debt	-	-	-	-
(4)	(6)	(4)	(2)	Net Reserves (Increase) / decrease	(174)	(17)	(17)	-
18	(104)	21	(131)	NET FUNDING BEFORE DEBT ADDITIONS	2	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	Internal Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	External Debt Additions	-	-	-	-
18	(104)	21	(125)	NET FUNDING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	2	-	-	-

Last Year YTD Actual \$000	YTD Actual \$000	YTD Budget \$000	YTD Variance \$000	BioWorks Capital Expenditure Statement For the three months ended September 2011	Last Year FY Actual \$000	Full Year Forecast \$000	Full Year Budget \$000	Full Year Variance \$000
-	-	-	-	Total Asset Acquisitions	116	108	108	-
-	-	-	-	Capital Project Expenditure	-	-	-	-
(24)	(3)	-	3	Asset Disposal Cash Proceeds	(55)	(18)	(18)	-
(24)	(3)	-	3	Net Capital Expenditure	61	90	90	-

(e) Financial Summary Variances

Reduced AHB revenue of \$220K due to timing of contracts.

(f) Risk Analysis

BioWorks lacked sufficient work at the commencement of the year and need to secure additional ground control contracts prior to year end to achieve budget.

The AHB has added milestones to two aerial contracts with financial penalties. If projects fail to meet these milestones, revenue will be reduced by \$25K for each contract.