

Report 12.516
Date 23 October 2012
File E/11/01/04

Committee Council
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Report on the Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting 23 October 2012

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Environmental Wellbeing Committee that took place on 23 October 2012.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Report

3.1 Renewal of global consents project

Eleven of the twelve global consents that Greater Wellington requires to carry out many of its river management activities in the region are expiring over the next one to five years. Applications for the consents to be renewed must be lodged six months prior to the expiration of the consent in order for work to continue without interruption. The Committee endorsed the approach proposed by the Flood Protection department to renew resource consents held by Greater Wellington. The project is focused on five work streams, including consent applications for the western and eastern rivers, the Waingawa short-term consent, region wide environmental monitoring, updating Greater Wellington's Environmental Code of Practice and Flood Plain Management Plans for the remainder of the regions rivers.

The Flood Protection department is working with officers in Greater Wellington's Environmental Policy and Environmental Science departments on the development of regional plans and what it could mean for the consents needed to undertake river management activities. By working with environmental scientists from Greater Wellington as well as other external

stakeholders, Flood Protection officers are hoping to address any environmental implications upfront rather than facing potential legal processes.

3.2 General Managers' report

Greater Wellington is a party to the group which has been developing the National Machinery Hygiene Guidelines which aim to improve the management of the spread of pests and weeds. Once the draft guidelines have been developed they will be distributed to stakeholders for consultation.

Land Environment Plans were developed as a tool for Greater Wellington, land owners and industry partners to use for managing nutrients and water quality in intensive farming systems. The Committee noted that there has been an increase in demand for Land Environment Plans. While to date the programme has been focused on properties in the Mangatarere catchment, further plans have been requested for other catchments including as part of the Wairarapa Moana Clean-up project.

The Committee discussed the forestry residue trial that has been taking place using a contractor to clear the skid sites and use the wood for chipping. Unfortunately the trial has been unsuccessful economically due to high costs for the contractor and difficulty with transportation due to the often misshapen logs.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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