

Report 13.636
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Committee Council
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Management

Report on the Environmental Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 21 May 2013

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Environmental Wellbeing Committee that took place on 21 May 2013.

2. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

3. Report on meeting

3.1 Public participation

Bruce Slater, Chair of the Waiohine River Advisory Committee and Viv Napier, Deputy Mayor, South Wairarapa District Council, spoke to item 5 on the agenda – Waiohine River Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) – Recommendation from Advisory Committee.

3.2 Waiohine River Floodplain Management Plan – Recommendation from Advisory Committee

The Committee discussed the proposed Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the Waiohine River. The Waiohine River drains the eastern watershed of a section of the Tararua ranges linking with the Ruamahanga River in the main Wairarapa Valley. The river passes through pastoral farmlands, to the north of Greytown, which sits on the river's floodplain. The protection of Greytown from flooding is a key focus in the development of the FMP.

The Committee was presented with the two options, Option 4 and Option 7, that the Waiohine River Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) recommended, at a meeting in October 2012, be given further consideration as possible approaches to floodplain management of the Waiohine River. The

Advisory Committee has since recommended Option 7 as their preferred option to be selected for detailed consideration in Phase 3 of the FMP.

The Committee discussed the key differences between Option 4 and Option 7. The Committee acknowledged the Advisory Committee's recommendation of Option 7 and the community support for this approach, while agreeing that further investigation was needed to determine that Option 7 was the best long term approach for managing the flood risk.

The Committee asked that officers report back on this investigation within six months, and recommend the preferred option to the Committee within twelve months.

3.3 General Managers' Report to the Environmental Wellbeing Committee 23 May 2013

The Committee discussed the recent Wairarapa River Scheme Committee meetings and noted the value of updated technology which enables officers to take aerial photos of cross sections of our rivers, allowing them to detect trend changes in the river channel. This information is then utilised to estimate the type and extent of works required with much more precision.

The Committee discussed the River Management Resource Consent Project, which is utilising the knowledge and skills of various Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) departments, and involves research contracts with Massey University regarding the effects of current river management practices. The project is an innovative approach for GWRC.

The Committee was presented with a forestry update on the sale of cutting rights. Tenders for the sale will be shortlisted by September, with the successful tenderer being operational by July 2014. There has been a lot of interest in the purchase of forestry cutting rights, from both on and off shore.

The Committee discussed this year's poplar and willow pole audit which showed a decrease from last year in pole survival rates. This decline is a result of the post-Christmas drought. A reduction in available poles is likely at the Akura Conservation Centre following the prolonged dry period and irrigation restrictions that were imposed.

The Committee also discussed the recent meeting held by GWRC, Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council staff, to discuss the organisations' active involvement in the Porirua Harbour catchment as part of the implementation of the Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy. The Committee suggested these meetings occur on a regular basis to ensure officers from all organisations are up to speed with the Strategy.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Barbara Donaldson
Chair