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## **Report 02.34**

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Report to the Landcare Committee  
from Rob Forlong, Divisional Manager, Landcare

### **Friends of the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers : Regional Council Representation**

#### **1. Purpose**

To appoint a Wellington Regional Council representative to the Friends of the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers groups.

#### **2. Background**

The Friends of the Otaki and Waikanae River groups arose from the preparation of the Otaki and Waikanae River Floodplain Management Plans. The groups have their own terms of reference and a memorandum of understanding with the Flood Protection Group.

Both groups undertake their own environmental enhancement projects as well as providing ongoing input into the Council's management of the two rivers. They were set up with assistance from the Regional Council and we also provide some support for their ongoing activities.

The groups are recognised both in their communities and by other agencies as being representative of those communities and as having a keen interest in the rivers. In the last year, both groups have been actively involved in resource management processes affecting the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers.

Each group provides for Regional Council representation on its committee. In the past triennium Mr John Gilbert, as the Landcare appointee for the Kapiti Coast, filled that role for both "Friends" groups. As all appointments from the previous triennium were dissolved before the Local Government elections you will need to make a further appointment this year.

### 3. **Communications**

The Friends' groups are important links between the Flood Protection Group and the Kapiti Coast communities. Formal Regional Council representation is valued by both of these groups and strengthens the ties between the council and the Kapiti community.

A press release will announce the appointment of a Regional Council representative to Friends groups.

### 4. **Recommendations**

*That the Landcare Committee:*

(1) *receive the report.*

(2) *note the contents of the report.*

(3) *appoint your nominee as the Regional Council representative to the Waikanae and Otaki Friends of the River groups.*

Report prepared by:

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