



Report 03.499
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Committee Environment Committee
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Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters that have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Department Managers' Reports, along with the Divisional Accountant's report follow as Attachment 1.

3. Resource Management Law Association's annual conference

The conference is being held in Blenheim from 9-12 October 2003. This year's theme is "water" which is very relevant to our work here. A copy of the programme is attached.

Past practice has been that the Chair of the Environment Committee and one other Committee member attend.

The Committee may like to decide who will be attending the conference.

4. Staffing

Paula Hammond started maternity leave on 18 August and Luci Ryan has taken her place as Manager, Consents Management.

5. Refurbishment

Level 3 of the Regional Council Centre is currently being refurbished which is inevitably quite disrupting for staff. Staff are scattered in temporary accommodation throughout the building.

6. Foreshore and Seabed: protecting public access and customary rights

I attended a briefing by Michael Cullen, Deputy Prime Minister on the day that the government released its proposal. A copy of “frequently asked questions and answers” is attached for information. I personally found this very helpful.

This is an issue that the Council will have to address. Staff will be reporting back at a later stage.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *decide on attendance at the forthcoming Resource Management Law Association’s conference.*

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Attachment 1: Department Managers’ Reports

Attachment 2: RMLA programme

Attachment 3: Foreshore and Seabed – Frequently Asked Questions and Answers