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Committee	Rural Services & Wairarapa Committee
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Annual Environment Report Cards

1. Purpose

To present to the Committee the annual summary of our state of the environment monitoring.

2. Reason for monitoring

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires us to monitor and report on the state of the environment in our region. Monitoring the state of the environment allows us to:

- Observe and interpret trends or changes in environmental quality and determine the reasons for these;
- Have good information for resource management decision making (resource consents and regional plan reviews); and
- Convey information about our natural resources to the wider community.

3. Monitoring results

To make our monitoring data more useful and accessible, we now present a summary of the year's monitoring results in a package of annual report cards. The nine report cards summarise the state of the region's environmental resources during 2002-03. The cards cover biodiversity, air quality, coastal and freshwater quality, groundwater, soil and hydrology. We also have reports about our work in pollution control and natural hazards.

Each card translates data into information that can be understood by a wide range of people. For more detailed or specific information, people can contact the staff person identified on each card.

The report cards will be tabled at the meeting.

4. Strategic context

One of the approaches of the Take 10 element – Community is ‘Ensuring people have useful information about our Region’. The state of our environment report cards give useful information about a number of the Take 10 elements.

5. Communication

The report card package will be distributed to the broad community of users of environmental information, including Greater Wellington staff, the general public, iwi, local and central government decision-makers, non-governmental organisations, environmental and community organisations, industry, libraries, schools and universities. The cards will also be available on our web site.

The package was designed with the help of the Communications Department. Communications staff are also helping us promote the report cards to a wide audience.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) receive the report; and*
- (2) note the contents.*

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