



Report 05.130
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Committee Landcare
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Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Departmental Managers' Reports are attached.

3. Landcorp Farms

Much of my time of late has been spent dealing the issues arising from Landcorp Farming Limited's decision to exit its Waitangirua and Whareroa Farms. The decision has caused much concern in the community and which has in turn resulted in numerous meetings and correspondence urging Greater Wellington to acquire the farms. The level of community support for both farms remaining in public ownership is extremely high. Groups such as the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park, Open Space Gateway Group, Friends of Maara Roa and Friends of Belmont Regional Park are working very hard to retain the land in the public domain.

On behalf of Greater Wellington, Councillors Buchanan and Laidlaw have made representations to both Landcorp management and the Minister of State Owned Enterprises regarding the future of the farms. Councillor Buchanan also wrote to Landcorp asking if they could delay the development to allow time to explore options for the protection of Whareroa Farm.

Unfortunately, the Landcorp Board has chosen to proceed with the development of Whareroa Farm and has appointed the Prichard Group to assist them. When advising us of their decision to develop and dispose of the farm, Landcorp made it clear that they fully intend to meet their environmental and social obligations as part of the development. We will continue to work with the Kapiti Coast District Council, Paekakariki Community Board and volunteer groups in an effort to protect the values of Whareroa farm.

Matters are also proceeding with Waitangirua Farm. As part of the terms of the original allocation from the Department of Lands and Survey, Landcorp are required to give Greater Wellington first right of refusal to purchase the property for incorporation into Belmont Regional Park. Discussions have commenced and I will keep you informed of progress.

4. Flood 5 and 6 January 2005 – Cleaning up and Debriefing

Clean up after the January floods is now well underway with staff and contractors working hard to get the urgent repairs complete before winter. The settled weather of late has meant that we have made very good progress which is heartening.

Following the flooding we attended a number of “debrief meetings”. A summary of the meetings is included within Geoff Dick’s report (attached). Not unexpectedly, many of those who attended called for us to do more flood protection work. I expect that this call will be repeated in the Annual Plan and LTCCP processes.

One thing that the meetings have brought home is that living through a significant flood is a traumatic experience for those who are directly affected. The social and psychological impacts of the floods were very much to the fore in the debrief meetings as people expressed the anger and frustration they felt when they saw dirty water flowing through their properties. While some of that frustration has been directed at Greater Wellington we have also received positive feedback from people who appreciate the work that the Council has done to minimise the damage from flooding.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Departmental reports