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**Committee** Rural Services and Wairarapa  
**Authors** Geoff Dick, Divisional Manager, Catchment Management  
Nigel Corry, Acting Divisional Manager, Environment Management  
Murray Kennedy, Divisional Manager, Water Supply, Parks & Forests

## **Divisional Managers' Report**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held in November 2005.

### **2. Significance of the decision**

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### **3. Managers' reports**

The Departmental Managers, and the financial report to 31 January 2006, are attached.

### **4. Divisional Matters**

#### **4.1 New era**

This is the first Divisional Managers' report under the new divisional structure that took effect on 1 February 2006. The key change is that three Divisions now report to the Committee as follows:

- Catchment Management  
Responsible for Biosecurity, Flood Protection/River Management, Land Management, and the Bioworks works unit – whole region.
- Environment Management  
Consents, Resource Investigations & Policy, Environmental Education and Harbours Management – whole region.

- Water Supply, Parks & Forests

Water Supply, Parks & Forests, Plantation and Reserve Forests.

However because the area of responsibility of the Committee has not changed the matters covered in this report have not changed. For the present the attached Managers reports are set out as previously:

- Biosecurity Wayne O'Donnell
- Land and River Operations Ian Gunn  
(including Reserve Forests)
- Planning & Resources Ted Taylor
- Financial Stephen Hill

The structure of the Managers reports may change as each Division reviews its own structure and how best to deliver its responsibilities across the region. However the Committee can be assured that the Divisions will work closely with the Committee to ensure a seamless transition to the new management structure.

#### **4.2 Financial Report**

Attached is the financial report for the former Wairarapa Division to 31 January 2006. Also attached is the key information that was put together for the half yearly management review. This report contains a summary of the key Wairarapa Division matters at 31 December 2005. We hope the Committee finds the half year report of interest and useful background.

Future financial information will need to be collated from three Divisions financial reports to cover the Rural Services and Wairarapa Committee's area of responsibility. However this is relatively simple to do and we will have a format sorted for the Committee's next meeting on 2 May.

#### **4.3 Geoff Dick – Catchment Management**

I have been in the job for about one month now. My priorities have been getting to know the staff in the Division, the Divisions area of responsibilities, and some of the key contacts which included meeting the Chief Executives of the three Wairarapa District Councils. During this period I have also appointed an Acting Manager (Sharyn Westlake) in my former role as manager of the Flood Protection Department (western part of the region)

The Catchment Division has a very interesting area of responsibility, and I still have much to learn. I have two or three weeks of getting out and about with key staff planned to complete this induction phase.

I have spent quite a bit of time with Scott Forbes, Manager, Bioworks discussing the various challenges facing this business unit. The unit has a projected turnover of

about \$3million for 2006/07, the core of which will remain Animal Health Board (AHB) work. From 2006/07 all AHB work will need to be won by competitive tender. Scott is well through restructuring the unit to make it more efficient and competitive, and to try and diversify its work base.

One of the early challenges facing the Division is the reduced funding from the AHB, and the impacts this will have on the target date for reaching TB free status in the region. The reduced funding also will impact on the Bioworks works unit. The reduced funding is well covered in the report prepared by Wayne O'Donnell.

I have also spent some time with Ian Gunn over the various river and catchment scheme rating reviews underway at present. These reviews are very important to the ongoing sustainability of the various schemes. Some very good work is being done to progress the reviews.

#### **4.4 Nigel Corry - Environment Management**

Since taking on the role of Acting Divisional Manager, Environment management, I have been working closely with both Geoff and Ted to stay in touch with developments in the Wairarapa, and to make sure we have a coordinated approach to our work programmes. In early February, I went to the Masterton office and met with all Wairarapa Planning and Research staff in my Acting Divisional Managers role. While I had met most of these people, this was a good opportunity to introduce myself to everyone, and to hear more about some of the key work programmes and issues in the Wairarapa. I have also spent a lot of time with Ted and Stephen Thawley, in my Consent Managers role, developing a programme for integrating our consent functions and processes. In many respects, the management of the consent function is the most complex to manage as one Division, but I believe we are making good cooperative progress on this front.

In terms of Wairarapa staffing, Rachel Hornsby who was the Acting Section Leader, Policy and Planning resigned and left at the end of January when her contract for this acting role ended. No replacement for the section leader position has been sought pending a review of the structure of the new Environmental Management Division. A replacement is being sought for her vacant resource advisor position.

The Planning and Policy Section now has only one person working 2 days per week following the internal promotion of Susannah Guscott and the secondment to the Catchment Management Division of Faith Barber. Along with the replacement of Rachel we will be looking at appointing a fixed term position to cover Faith's secondment.

#### **4.5 Murray Kennedy – Water Supply, Parks & Forest**

I spent a day in the field with Conservation Forestry staff visiting the three Reserve Forests. At Tauanui access issues were discussed, recent logging operations viewed and the new road under construction was driven over.

My guides, Tom and Kevin, exercised considerable caution crossing the Awhea River to access Stoney Creek drawing attention to the instability of rivers in this area. Plantings of different species were visited prior to driving through the maturing

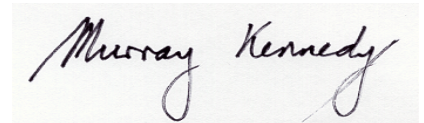
P.radiata to view some of the extreme erosion. Rough Hill was viewed from the distance. The proximity to the Hauanui Wind Farm was noted.

## 5. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:



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**Attachment 1: Departmental and financial reports**