



Report 07.504
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Committee Environment Committee
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Management

Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Management 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. Building Act – extension to timeframes

We received notification from the Department of Building and Housing on 7 August 2007 that the government is proposing to extend the timeframe for the accreditation and registration of building consent authorities until 30 June 2008 (from the previous date of 30 November 2007).

This is a good outcome, and it is acknowledged in the press release issues by the Minister for Building and Housing, the Hon Clayton Cosgrove, that regional councils are making good progress in this area with nine regional council arranging to transfer their functions, and the remaining three preparing to seek full accreditation. Explicit reference is also made to the need for territorial authorities (TA's) to have more time for their functions to be transferred to regional councils, and a 'loop hole' in the legislation has been resolved to ensure that these functions stay with TA's until 30 June 2008.

As you are aware, Greater Wellington is proposing to transfer our building control functions to Environment Waikato, and our work was focussed on achieving this task prior to 30 November this year. However, it is likely that regional councils across the country will take advantage of the extended national deadline for accreditation. This will allow us to fully resolve issues such as details of transfer contracts, and allow for the best possible integration of systems across all councils prior to seeking accreditation.

4. Building Act submissions

We have received seven submissions to date. Of the seven, four support the transfer of powers to Environment Waikato. Three submitters, Capacity, Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and Federated Farmers raised concerns regarding additional costs for the same service. Only one of the submitters, Federated Farmers, wishes to be heard.

A Hearing was originally scheduled for 28 August 2007 with Councillors Turver, Baber and Laidlaw officiating. However, proposed legislation seeks to extend the time given to councils for achieving accreditation. We will postpone the hearing date to allow some of the technical questions still outstanding to be resolved prior to a hearing committee meeting.

5. Resource Management Law Association Conference

The 2007 Resource Management Law Association (RMLA) annual conference, *My Own Piece of Paradise*, is scheduled to take place at the Napier War Memorial Conference Centre from 4-7 October.

I have attached the programme for the conference, and Councillors may wish to consider who attends this conference.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report; and***
2. ***Notes the contents.***

Report prepared by:



Divisional Manager,
Environment Management

Attachment 1: Department Managers' Reports
Attachment 2: RMLA Conference programme