



Report 08.384  
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Committee Catchment Management  
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## Divisional Manager's Report

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress and any matters that have arisen since the previous meeting held on 1 May 2008.

### 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. Background

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

### 4. Divisional matters

#### Acting Divisional Manager

I will be on leave for the period 11-24<sup>th</sup> June. Ian Gunn will be the acting Divisional Manager during my absence.

#### Staffing

Murray Hudson (Senior Biosecurity Officer, Monitoring) recently resigned from GW. Murray has gained a position with the Animal Health Board as the Programme Planner for the Northern Region, based in Hamilton. Murray was responsible for the Monitoring & Investigations Section within Biosecurity and had been with GW for over 10 years.

Two new staff have joined the Strategy and Technical Support team in Flood Protection over this period. They are Melanie McElwee, Environmental Planner and James Flanagan, Senior Engineer.

Jacki Byrd has joined the biodiversity team of the Land Management Department. Jacki has had extensive biodiversity community work experience based in Waitakere City and will be working from the Upper Hutt office, servicing the Streams Alive programme, Ohariu voluntary incentives programme, and dealing with biodiversity and other land management matters in southern Wairarapa.

## **Environment Day**

Staff assisted in the organisation of a number of projects to promote Environment Day. Council had a particular focus on “Greentown” – the Greytown initiative. This project seems to have been well received by the Greytown community and will continue until Arbour Day in early July. An enhancement project to restore the Makoura Stream which flows through Masterton was also initiated with a planting day at the Webstar site on the western side of Masterton. Both projects featured an educational component for school children.

## **Hill Country Erosion Fund Application**

Dave Cameron and I met with Ministry of Agriculture officials on 5 June to support Council’s bid for funds. This resulted in some significant request for changes the following day, including extending the programme over a 10 year period and changes to the overall cost shares of the partners.

A report on the proposed project is to be considered by the full Council at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June. An update on where the project is at will be given to the Committee at the meeting.

## **ACC Audit**

Departments operating from the Masterton office have been selected by ACC to be audited for our Work Safety Management Practices. The aim is to get Council certified to Stage 1 which qualifies Council for a discount on the ACC levy payable for all staff employed.

The audit is scheduled for 16 June.

## **River and Catchment Scheme Advisory Committee Meetings**

All of the annual river and catchment scheme advisory committee meetings have been completed. Feedback from the committees has been positive. Most committees adjusted their rates on the basis of the Cost Construction Index. This is necessary to maintain the assets in the schemes.

## **Chrystalls Walkway Opening**

The new stopbank at Chrystalls Bend on the Otaki River, and the associated walkway that provides access to the Chrystalls lagoon was opened on 24<sup>th</sup> May. It was a successful event with a good turnout from Otaki residents.

Staff and the Otaki Friends of the River put in a lot of hard work to organise the day and prepare the site for the opening.

## **Lake Ferry Carpark**

I have declined a request from the South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC) for Council to fund a rock wall to protect the carpark located on the foreshore at Lake Ferry. Our engineering staff believe that more rock is required than in the original estimate and that because of the soft substrate the rock will sink. This will require considerable ongoing maintenance to have a secure rock wall.

Three options were suggested to SWDC for their consideration. The rock wall option was one of the options. The preferred option of GW is a re-alignment of the road further inland and the creation of a car park some distance from the Ruamahanga River. The current car park is located close to the Ruamahanga River outlet, and is vulnerable to being eroded away if sea and lake conditions prevent the outlet to Palliser Bay being cut for a longer than normal period of time.

## **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 Managers' Report  
Attachment 2: Financial Report