



Report 08.465
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Committee Council
Author Cr Rex Kirton, Chair, Parks, Forests and Utilities
Committee
Murray Kennedy, Divisional Manager, Water Supply,
Parks and Forests

Report of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee Meeting held on 19 June 2008

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee that took place at the Wainuiomata water treatment plant on 19 June 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. Divisional Manager's report

Mr Kennedy referred to the updated Emissions Trading scheme, a bill presently before Parliament, which, reportedly, has had a thousand changes made. However, most of these changes were minor. There does not appear to have been any amendment to the proposed legislation as a result of the Council's submission with the proposed wind farm development on land used for forestry. Interestingly, there is now an opportunity to substitute a new forest development in place of a retired forest or land converted to another use e.g. a lowland forest replaced with fresh hill country plantings. Any further development and potential effects to the forestry operation from the bill will be brought to the Committee's attention.

Mr Kennedy distributed a graph (as at 18 June 2008), which shows how much water is stored and available for generating hydro-electricity in New Zealand. The amount stored (56% of average) has increased slightly with recent rain. Following discussion, Councillors agreed to operate the water supply system as normal as opposed to energy saving mode (which increases chemical usage) unless the Government calls for a specific saving in electricity use. The Divisional Manager will consult with the Committee Chair if the hydro situation deteriorates.

4. Marketing and Design

Water treatment plant visits

In response to a question, Councillors were advised that free tours can be arranged through our support staff.

5. Forestry

Councillor Wilson asked for an update about Chinese interest in logs from our forests. Mr Leonard responded that he had met with one of our Chinese customers recently who articulated a strong interest in buying an entire bush block of trees with a shortened delivery time through our existing contractor. Mr Leonard will keep the Committee informed of any developments.

6. Water Supply/Engineering Services

In response to Councillor Greig's inquiry Mr Shaw explained how the seal that joins the base of the tower and concrete apron had failed at Lake 1 at Te Marua. This was discovered after the lake had been drained.

7. Gallup survey

In answer to a question, Mr Kennedy advised that he would provide a summary of the action plans and other initiatives put in place as part of the Gallup engagement process at the next Committee meeting.

8. Proposed Central Business District Reservoir

The Committee asked for an update. Mr Kennedy said the development of this important project has been frustrated because the Capital and Coast District Health Board appear reluctant to commit any funds. The Chief Executives of Greater Wellington and Wellington City are to meet with the Chief Executive of Capital and Coast District Health Board.

9. Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area Public Access Plan review and update

Councillor Burke inquired about the baches or huts situated on Department of Conservation land in the Orongorongo area. Mr McKenzie (DoC representative on the Committee) advised that these were held until the death of the "occupier" at which stage the Department assessed the historic value of such dwellings. If the Department considered these of value the buildings are retained, otherwise they are demolished.

10. Parks and Forests concessions review

Councillor Wilson inquired about the estimated revenue and any impacts from imposing such fees.

Mr Waititi responded, saying that essentially under the present policy property, leases, licences and easements are charged at market rates and this remains. The proposed charges for other events, which encourage people to use the parks, is expected to bring in some \$40,000-\$60,000 each year. Thus, the effect on our revenue line is not large.

11. Process for conducting hearings and considering submissions

Councillor Burke commented on the appropriateness of officers recommending representatives for elected member committees. Councillor Kirton also agreed that all future reports should be signed by a politician.

12. Other business

Mr Waititi advised that the Rimutaka Tea rooms and toilet issue continues. Earlier in the year, he requested that the lessee of the Rimutaka Tea rooms present a business plan. To date this has not been received so he had written to the lessee giving a deadline of mid July. Councillor Kirton advised that there was some history with previous lessees with similar issues. The Committee will be updated with any developments.

13. Unconfirmed minutes

The confirmed minutes of the Committee's meeting are attached as Attachments 1 and 2.

14. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Cr Rex Kirton
Chair
Parks, Forests and Utilities
Committee

Murray Kennedy
Divisional Manager, Water
Supply, Parks and Forests

Attachment 1: Public minutes

Attachment 2: Public excluded minutes