



Report 08.835
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Committee Catchment Management
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Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee - Meeting Update

1. Purpose

To provide a summary of the Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 November 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 Wairarapa Hill Country Advisory Committee (WHCAC) met on 4 November 2008 to consider matters relating to the Afforestation Grant Scheme, an update on progress of the LTCCP as it relates to hill country erosion and biodiversity management, and increasing pole production from Akura to meet future demand under various regional and national programmes.

Peter Gaskin, Chair of the Regional Animal Health Advisory Committee spoke to the meeting about future funding of bovine and possum predator programmes.

Minutes from the meeting are attached.

4. Comment

Key outcomes from the meeting were:

- Support the promotion of the Afforestation Grant Scheme and look for opportunities to integrate promotion of this, and other afforestation opportunities when the MAF ETS roadshow reaches the Wellington region.

- MAF representatives and others involved in various roadshows around the ETS to be invited to the next meeting of the Committee. There was considerable support for Regional Councils to be the major regional contact around the ETS and it made little sense for MAF to increase staff numbers without further dialogue between the two parties.
- There was widespread support to maximise the production of poplar and willow poles from Akura nursery to meet increasing demands. This would require an upgrade to the existing irrigation system. Increasing production from Akura would only meet 50% of the projected increase in demand for poles. Most of the increase will come from the proposed Wellington Regional Erosion Control Initiative. Members strongly supported the development of new nursery land close to Akura to provide the remaining 50% (8,000 poles).
- Lengthy discussion took place on the options for future bovine and possum/predator control programmes. Members were unanimous in supporting a continuation of the regional share for the bovine programme and maintaining the partnership with the Animal Health Board until the new NPMS is in place and operational.
- The Committee was also unanimous in their support of the policy to 'maintain the gains' and sought implementation of the proposed Regional Possum Predator Control Programme.

5. Communication

No major communication issues were identified, however the advent of regional roadshows in the new year would provide a number of promotional opportunities.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1 – WHCAC Minutes 4 November 2008