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Committee Council  
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and Forests

## **Report of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2009**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform Council about the meeting of the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee that took place in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber on 12 February 2009.

### **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. Revaluation of Water Supply assets 2008**

Recently, the Council's Water Supply assets were revalued, as required under the Local Government Act 2002. Such assets are revalued regularly to ensure any material change to the carrying amounts (i.e. the book value) is taken to account. In the discussion that followed Councillors were advised that the revaluation increased the asset base and the depreciation charge. However, the adjusted depreciation charge is comparable to what was budgeted. In addition, because depreciation, by definition, is not a cash payment there is no effect to the overall cash position.

### **4. Water Supply development projects – customer feedback**

Mr Shaw presented the results of feedback received on the Water Supply development projects from the Wellington, Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua City Councils. Also a separate email from Councillor Margaret Cousins, Chair of the Hutt City Council's Strategy and Policy Committee, was circulated to the meeting.

Mr Shaw mentioned that feedback on demand management initiatives had not been sought and the draft Regional Water Strategy, to be circulated later this financial year, will seek such responses.

Councillors, in general discussion indicated that they preferred to move the preparation of the resource consents applications quickly, particularly for the Kaitoke weir, ahead of the Upper Hutt aquifer.

Mr McCarthy advised that initial discussions with consent officers on the draft application for the Kaitoke low flow consent identified that the four cities needed to agree to the Hutt River low flow demand management plan so that it can be implemented when requested.

## **5. Wholesale water capital works programme 2008/09 half year review**

Mr Laidlow outlined the major projects undertaken over the past six months and highlighted the repairs made to the Stuart Macaskill Lake 1 apron, which was completed in November 2008. This particular work came in at a higher than expected cost because it was intricate and the site difficult. Some other projects have been brought forward, where possible, to minimise disruptions to road traffic.

## **6. Divisional Manager's report**

Mr Kennedy, highlighted that the 1080 drop planned at the Kaitoke/Hutt area and accompanying communications strategy was well advanced. Councillor Baber inquired about the process to follow when she is alerted to any 1080 bait being interfered with or moved by a member of the public. Mr Waititi advised that, in the first instance, the police are to be contacted and for him to be advised.

In addition, Mr Kennedy commented that the power contract (re-negotiated once every four years) is to be tendered in September 2009. An analysis of spot power prices is underway. A suitable risk strategy will be formulated and brought to the next meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee.

Councillor Wilde updated the meeting of the developments at the Rimutaka toilets and tearooms. The situation will continue to be monitored and a further report will be made to another meeting.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Council:*

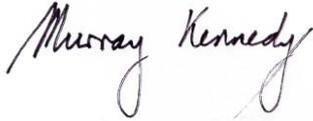
1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:



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Chair, Parks, Forests and  
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Report prepared by:



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