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Committee	Regulatory Committee
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Release of selected land use information

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of progress in releasing information from Greater Wellington's Selected Land Use Register.

2. Background

Greater Wellington holds records of properties where certain activities have taken place or industries have been located where there is the potential for the land to be contaminated. These records are held on our Selected Land Use Register (SLUR). The design, purpose and maintenance of this register is consistent with the advice contained in the Ministry for the Environment's Contaminated Land Management Guidelines No 4.

Properties are classified according to the land use matching an entry in a list referred to as HAIL (Hazardous Activities and Industries List). The HAIL list is contained in the Ministry's guidelines (**Attachment 1**).

The register was populated initially (1996) from sources such as territorial authority records, including dangerous goods records, telephone book surveys and other similar sources. Since then there has been a programme of verifying the information with almost all of the sites now verified.

Each property is listed under one of five categories (**Attachment 2**) reflecting the presence or absence of contamination or the status of the site in relation to verification of the historical or current land use.

Earlier this year media requests to Hawke's Bay Regional Council for release of their register, which contained over 3,000 sites listed as unverified, led to the Ombudsman requiring that that information be released (**Attachment 3**).

Subsequent to that we have also had requests from media to release lists of information from our register. While in the past we routinely released information from SLUR to property owners, purchasers, valuers, agents and others who have requested it, we have not released lists of all properties where there is no specific purpose. The region's territorial authorities have restricted web-based access to SLUR and use this when putting information on Land Information Memoranda (LIM) and Project Information Memoranda (PIM).

3. Comment

Requests have been received from four media organisations to release information we hold on SLUR. Consistent with the Ombudsman's decision we released the information asked for on 12 October. This release date is that agreed to for the release of the Hawke's Bay information and is being used by other regional councils that have had similar requests.

To prepare for the release we have sent letters to all of the property owners on SLUR advising them that the release was to take place. Of the 1,600 odd letters sent we have had around 70 queries of a wide ranging nature, from not being aware of the historical land use to clarification of site details. This response is not unexpected as not all property purchasers have obtained LIMs as part of the purchase process.

Looking to the future, there is merit in making SLUR information accessible on the Greater Wellington website. However, before this is done the register needs to be migrated as a module to the new land-based database used for consent data and provision made to protect any information that is genuinely confidential.

4. Communication

No communication is proposed additional to the requested release of information.

5.   Recommendations

That the Committee:

1.   ***Receives*** *the report.*

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

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Attachment 1: Hazardous Activities and Industries List
Attachment 2: SLUR categories
Attachment 3: Ombudsman's decision relating to the release of land use information