



Report 10.549
Date 14 September 2010
File E/06/32/03

Committee Council
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Report on the Regional Sustainability Committee meeting held on 14 September 2010

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee that took place at Greater Wellington's Wellington offices on 14 September 2010.

2. Public participation

Mr Max Shierlaw, a Councillor of Hutt City Council expressed his concern about the proposal before the Council to apply for a resource consent to reduce the minimum flow at the Kaitoke weir for up to three years while seismic enhancement work is carried out at the Stuart Macaskill Lakes.

Mrs. Dianne Strugnell spoke on the Battle Hill Sustainable Land Management Plan.

3. Pauatahanui Inlet

Ms Cheryl Cameron and Professor John Wells presented the trailer and the first of a series of 12 short films, "Living Waters", an initiative of the Pauatahanui Inlet Community Trust. In these documentary styled films people tell stories about the environment, ecology and life of the Porirua Harbour and Pauatahanui Inlet. The aim of the films is to give those living in the area a greater appreciation of the harbour and inlet and to provide an educational tool for schools.

4. Community preparedness survey results for 2010

Rian Van Schalkwyk spoke to this report and highlighted that although the community preparedness for a major emergency (as shown by those who hold emergency food supplies and water) has improved steadily between surveys, at over 70 percent this result is slightly short of the 80 percent target. The recent

Canterbury earthquake has been used as a marketing opportunity with the community taking a fresh interest in emergency survival kits.

5. Application for change to conditions of resource consent for water abstraction at Kaitoke weir

Murray Kennedy introduced this paper and advised Councillors that, at this stage, three of the four customer cities had signalled support for the application for a change to the resource consent but Hutt City Council had reserved its position. Tony Shaw advised that the resource consent application covers a three year period whilst the Stuart Macaskill Lakes are upgraded. In an average year additional water would not be needed very frequently. We expect that all work will be completed over two years and an extra year has been included as a contingency.

An independent scientific analysis of the ecology of the Hutt river has been undertaken and peer reviewed by the Cawthron Institute. The scientific studies concluded that the effect of the reduced flows on the river is no more than minor. Each of the four customer cities will be provided with a copy of the complete resource consent application when lodged.

If granted, the consent would reduce the low flow condition of the Hutt River after Kaitoke weir from 600 l/s to 400 l/s and provide up to 17 million litres of additional water supply, if required, to maintain security of supply. Councillors were provided with summary of key scientific information and its assessed potential impact on the Hutt River.

6. East Harbour Regional Park - Baring Head block

Murray Kennedy advised the Committee that representatives of the Nature Heritage Fund, part of the funding consortium, were to visit Baring Head block on 14 September. The 2011/12 Operating plan and 2012/22 Long Term Council Community Plan will set out the extent of future funding for operational purposes.

7. Ngāti Toa Rangatira Treaty Settlement

Riki Ellison verbally updated the Councillors on Ngāti Toa Rangatira's Treaty settlement with the Crown. As part of the settlement a Joint Management Board for Whitireia Park is proposed, with the Council and Ngati Toa having three representatives each on the Board. The Council will manage Whitireia Park as a recreational reserve with the exception of the land that will be owned by Ngati Toa. The iwi will manage that land as a historic reserve. In addition, the iwi have an option to remove this land from the joint management arrangement in the future. A written report will go to the Council meeting to be held 28 September.

8. Group report for year ended 31 August 2010

Murray Kennedy updated the Committee on the possible new water storage lake site ("Lake 3") and outlined the engineering and investigation work that was to be carried out over the next twelve months to prove the feasibility and cost of construction of a storage lake. A decision regarding possible future water storage needs to be made between Lake 3 and the Whakatikei dam once the investigations have been completed."

Councillor Bruce requested that a high level assessment of the unit cost of water for the two water storage options, Lake 3 and the Whakatikei dam and the upgraded Stuart Mascaskill Lakes is undertaken.

Murray Waititi, in response to a query regarding the annual planting programme at Queen Elizabeth Park, advised that some 15,000 plants planted at QEP are from stock grown in the nursery and there is not any intention to change that programme in the near future.

Councillors discussed re-leasing Waitangirua Farm and supported the approach advocated that there be less public access restrictions imposed during lambing.

9. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Confirms the minutes of the meeting of the Regional Sustainability Committee held on 14 September 2010.***

Report prepared by:



Cr Chris Laidlaw
Chair, Regional Sustainability
Committee

Report prepared by:

Murray Kennedy
General Manager
Utilities and Services

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes of meeting of Regional Sustainability Committee held on 14 September 2010