

Report 15.148  
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Committee Council  
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## **Report on Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee meeting, 31 March 2015**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Council of Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee (the Committee) meeting of 31 March 2015.

### **2. Public participation**

The Committee received a presentation from Jim Mikoz, in which he expressed his concerns about CentrePort's harbour dredging and disposal proposal. Officers note that in the event that CentrePort formally progresses this proposal it would be subject to the notified consent application process, which would be open to public submissions.

### **3. Reports**

#### **3.1 Performance report for the quarter ended 31 December 2014**

The Committee discussed the performance report for the quarter ended 31 December 2014, which provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Environmental Policy, Environmental Regulation and Environmental Science departments.

A new Wellington central air quality monitoring site is to be installed on the corner of Willis Street and State Highway 1, one block west of the original station's location on the corner of Victoria and Vivian Street. The relocation is a result of Wellington City Council's Victoria Street precinct upgrade. The new station is a significant upgrade from the previous station; it will be larger, include instruments that can measure traffic-related air pollutants not previously monitored, such as PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and will also include a real time display of air quality information. The Committee raised the possibility of employing mobile monitoring stations, as has previously been done in Melling and Ngauranga Gorge, throughout central Wellington to monitor air quality in additional sites to the Willis St/State Highway 1 intersection.

The Committee discussed South Wairarapa District Council's (SWDC) three wastewater treatment plants, located in Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown. SWDC has reapplied for resource consents for each of the plants, and hearing dates have been set for each. The proposals for these plants tie into

an overall waste treatment strategy for the South Wairarapa district, and will have long-term advantages for the environment. GWRC is working with SWDC to advance this work as much as possible. Officers advised that they were confident SWDC's waste treatment strategy complies with the provisions in the draft Natural Resources Plan.

The Committee received an update on the 'strategic compliance' framework that is currently being developed as part of GWRC's Resource Management Act compliance programme. This is an internationally driven piece of work based around the idea that compliance and monitoring should be collaborative and structured processes focused around key issues. It was noted that, once developed, the framework would be reviewed to see how it could incorporate wider elements such as cultural monitoring.

The Committee requested an update on the Regional Natural Hazards Management Strategy (the Strategy) and how it relates to the work of the Flood Protection Department. The Flood Protection Department has been actively involved in the development of the Strategy and will continue to participate as it is developed. It was noted that, although the Wairarapa territorial authorities are not funding the Strategy due to having recently completed a combined district plan, they are engaging with the work by forming part of a "watching brief." It is anticipated that a draft Strategy will be established within the next 12-18 months. The Committee discussed the benefits of having a communication strategy in place for raising public awareness of natural hazards. Officers advised that there is a communications plan being developed as part of the overall Strategy.

The Committee asked for further information pertaining to pesticides and contaminated land. Officers agreed to circulate additional information to the Committee.

#### **4. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

##### **4.1 Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

#### **5. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

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

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Report approved by:

**Cr Chris Laidlaw**  
Co-Chair, Te Upoko Taiao –  
Natural Resource Management  
Committee