

Report 16.137  
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Committee Council  
Author Nigel Corry, General Manager, Environment Management  
Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management

## **Report on the Environment Committee meeting, 30 March 2016**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform Council of the Environment Committee meeting of 30 March 2016.

### **2. Reports**

#### **2.1 Minor amendments to retain currency of the Parks Network Plan**

The Committee was advised that two minor amendments were being proposed to the Parks Network Plan in order to retain the currency of the Plan. The proposed changes include replacing Map 20, which defines trails permitted for use by motorised recreation vehicles in the Akatarawa Forest and proposed revision of the maximum stay period for camping at parks where camping is a permitted activity (Kaitoke, Battle Hill and Belmont Regional Parks).

The Committee has recommended these changes to Council. If the proposed amendments are approved by Council they will then be subject to a two month consultation period.

#### **2.2 General Managers' report to the Environment Committee**

The Committee was updated on the activities of the Catchment Management, Environment Management and Strategy groups relevant to the Committee.

With regard to the discovery of Velvetleaf, the Committee was advised that as Velvetleaf is classed as an Unwanted Organism the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has the lead role for the response, with Assure Quality having been contracted by MPI to manage the response. While there have been no reported cases of Velvetleaf in the Wellington Region, there have been 50 reported cases overall, in Waikato, Manawatu, Canterbury and Otago.

MPI is currently considering the feasibility of eradication of Velvetleaf. If eradication is not considered to be feasible then responsibility for management and control, and the associated costs, could transfer to regional councils. The Committee considered that this should be an item on the GWRC risk register due to the potential for the responsibility and costs to transfer to the Council.

The Committee was updated on the dung beetle release programme. Two species originating from Europe were released at five sites in the Wairarapa by GWRC in 2013 and 2014; releases involved both dry stock and dairy farms. Two private landowners have released further colonies in Porirua and Masterton. Field work will be undertaken in 2016/17 as part of a Fullbright Fellowship research project focused on the NZ dung beetle abundance post release.

### **2.3 Report of the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting of 3 March 2016**

The Committee received a report informing it of matters occurring of the Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee meeting of 3 March 2016.

### **2.4 Report on Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting of 15 March 2016**

The Committee received a report informing it of matters occurring at Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting of 15 March 2016.

## **3. Communication**

No external communication is required.

## **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.*

Report prepared by:

**Nigel Corry**  
General Manager  
Environment Management

Report prepared by:

**Wayne O'Donnell**  
General Manager  
Catchment Management

Report approved by:

**Cr Barbara Donaldson**  
Chair, Environment  
Committee