



**greater WELLINGTON**  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Te Pane Matua Taiao**

If calling please ask for: Democratic Services

25 October 2018

## **Environment Committee**

Order Paper for the meeting of the Environment Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington on:

**Wednesday, 31 October 2018 at 9.30am**

### **Membership**

Cr Kedgley (Chair)  
Cr Brash (Deputy)

Cr Blakeley  
Cr Gaylor  
Cr Laidlaw  
Cr McKinnon  
Cr Ponter  
Cr Swain

Cr Donaldson  
Cr Laban  
Cr Lamason  
Cr Ogden  
Cr Staples

Ihaia Puketapu

***Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council***

## Environment Committee

**Order Paper for meeting to be held on Wednesday, 31 October 2018  
in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level  
2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 9.30am**

### Public Business

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**Please note that these minutes remain unconfirmed until the meeting of the Environment Committee on 31 October 2018.**

**Report 18.428**

20/09/2018

File: CCAB-10-586

**Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday, 20 September 2018 in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington at 09:30am**

**Present**

Councillors Kedgley (Chair), Blakeley (from 09:50am), Brash (Deputy Chair), Donaldson (from 09:50am), Gaylor, Laban, Laidlaw (from 10:22am), Lamason, McKinnon, Ogden, Ponter (from 09:50am), Swain, and Staples; and Ihaia Puketapu (from 10:20am).

**Public Business**

**1 Apologies**

*Moved*

*(Cr Lamason/Cr Staples)*

*That the Committee accepts the apologies for lateness from Councillors Blakeley, Donaldson, Laidlaw and Ponter, and from Ihaia Puketapu.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**2 Declarations of conflict of interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**3 Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

4 **Confirmation of the public minutes of 9 August 2018**

*Moved* (Cr Lamason/Cr Staples)

*That the Committee confirms the public minutes of the meeting of 9 August 2018, Report 18.338.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

5 **Action items from previous meetings**

**Report 18.334** File ref: CCAB-10-551

*Moved* (Cr Brash/Cr Ogden)

*That the Committee:*

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

The motion was **CARRIED**.

6 **Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022 Operational Plan 2018/19**

Tim Gale, Biosecurity Advisor (Policy), spoke to the report.

**Report 18.409** File ref: ENPL-9-216

*Moved* (Cr Lamason/Cr Staples)

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the contents of the report*
3. *Approves the proposed Operational Plan 2018/19 (Attachment 1) for the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2002-2022*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

7 **Flood Protection Annual Asset Management Report 2018**

Colin Munn, Team Leader, Flood Protection, Operations Delivery and Planning, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.326** File ref: CCAB-10-562

*Moved* (Cr Lamason/Cr Brash)

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*

2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes the confirmation of the Scheme Advisory Committees and Friends Groups that assets have been maintained to their satisfaction.*
4. *Notes the advice from officers that the 15 River Management Schemes in the region have been satisfactorily maintained.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

8 **Floodplain Management Plan Implementation: Annual Progress Report to June 2018**

Alistair Allan, Team Leader, Floodplain Management Plan Implementation, and Graeme Campbell, Manager, Flood Protection, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.356**

File ref: CCAB-10-560

*Moved*

*(Cr Lamason/Cr Brash)*

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Recommends that a copy of the report be sent to the Region's TAs.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am and reconvened at 10:40am.

9 **Are we meeting our environmental outcomes in the Kāpiti Coast catchment?**

Penny Fairbrother, Senior Science Co-ordinator, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.402**

File ref: CCAB-10-565

*Moved*

*(Cr Gaylor/Cr McKinnon)*

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *That copy of the report be sent to KCDC and appropriate local NGO's in the area.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

**Noted:** The Committee congratulated the staff on the excellent quality of the report and presentation.

10 **Climate Change Implementation Plan – progress report**

Jake Roos, Acting Climate Change Advisor, and Nicola Shorten, Manager, Strategic and Corporate Planning, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.407**

File ref: CCAB-10-566

*Moved*

*(Cr Blakeley/Cr Kedgley)*

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report*
3. *Requests that the Greater Wellington Climate Change Working Group review the emissions reduction targets and report back to the Committee.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

11 **Emissions Trading Scheme Consultation**

Jake Roos, Acting Climate Change Advisor, spoke to the report.

**Report 18.411**

File ref: CCAB-10-57.

*Moved*

*(Cr Blakeley /Cr Donaldson)*

*That the Committee*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report*
3. *Agrees that a consultation response based on the recommended answers detailed in Attachment 1 to this report be submitted.*
4. *Delegates to the Chair the ability to make minor editorial amendments to the submission.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

12 **General Manager's report to the Environment Committee**

**Report 18.367**

File ref: CCAB-10-561

*Moved*

*(Cr Lamason/Cr Laban)*

*That the Committee:*

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

The motion was **CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 12:20pm

Cr S Kedgley  
(Chair)

Date:



**Report** 18.423  
**Date** 20 September 2018  
**File** CCAB-10-589

**Committee** Environment Committee  
**Authors** Lucy Baker, Acting General Manager, Environment Management  
and  
Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management

## Action items from previous meetings

**Attachment 1** lists items raised at Environment Committee meetings that require actions or follow-ups from officers. All action items include an outline of current status and a brief comment. Once the items have been completed and reported to the Committee they will be removed from the list.

No decision is being sought in this report. This report is for the Committee's information only.

### Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

Report approved by:

**Lucy Baker**  
Acting, General Manager,  
Environment Management

Report approved by:

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

**Attachment 1:** Action items from previous meetings

## Attachment 1 to Report 18.423

## Action points from previous Environment Committee meetings

Meeting date	Action point	Status and comment
22 March 2018	<p><b>Resolution</b></p> <p><i>Requests officers to arrange a workshop inviting both Wellington Water Limited and Regional Public Health to discuss their respective responses to the broader set of Inquiry recommendations. The workshop could also incorporate an update on the 'Waiwhetu Aquifer contamination' workstream.</i></p>	<p><b>Status:</b> <i>Under action</i></p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>A meeting was held on 12 October 2018 to discuss this issue.</p>
22 March 2018	<p><b>Resolution</b></p> <p><i>Requests officers to work proactively with territorial authorities, Wellington Water Limited and Regional Public Health to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding clarifying arrangements and responsibilities with respect to providing safe public drinking water supply in the Wellington Region.</i></p>	<p><b>Status:</b> <i>Under action</i></p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>A meeting was held on 12 October 2018 to discuss this issue.</p>
20 September 2018	<p><b>Resolution</b></p> <p><i>Recommends that a copy of Are we meeting our environmental outcomes in the Kāpiti Coast catchment? Be sent to KCDC and appropriate local NGOs in the area.</i></p>	<p><b>Status:</b> <i>Under action</i></p> <p><b>Comments:</b> Penny Fairbrother, Senior Science Coordinator presented this to KCDC along with Councillor Penny Gaylor.</p>
20 September 2018	<p><b>Resolution</b></p> <p><i>Requests that the Greater Wellington Climate Change Working Group review the admissions reductions guidelines and report back to the Committee.</i></p>	<p><b>Status:</b> <i>To be actioned</i></p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p>



**Report** 18.468  
**Date** 12 October 2018  
**File** CCAB-10-593

**Committee** Environment  
**Author** Nicola Shorten, Manager, Strategic & Corporate Planning  
Jake Roos, Acting Climate Change Advisor

## Update from the Climate Change Working Groups

### 1. Purpose

To update the Committee following the latest meetings of the Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group and the Greater Wellington Councillor Climate Change Working Group.

### 2. Background

#### 2.1 Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group

In the last year, Greater Wellington, along with the region's city and district councils, established a Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group (WRCCWG). Greater Wellington convenes and chairs the group, which comprises a councillor from each council across the region and three iwi appointees nominated by Ara Tahi.

The WRCCWG provides a forum for councils and iwi to network, discuss issues, share information and where appropriate, achieve a consistent approach across all jurisdictions on climate change mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions) and adaptation (preparing for impacts such as sea level rise, drought and enhanced natural hazards effects). The Group is supported by a newly established staff 'Low Carbon Transition Steering Group' (mitigation) and the Natural Hazards Strategy Working Group.

#### 2.2 Greater Wellington Councillor Climate Change Working Group

Greater Wellington has a Councillor Climate Change Working Group. This group meets every 6-8 weeks to discuss climate change matters.

The Environment Committee has requested regular updates of the activities of these two working groups.

### **3. Comment**

#### **3.1 Wellington Region Climate Change Working Group**

Discussion at the WRCCWG meeting of 3 September 2018, included:

##### **3.1.1 One Billion Trees**

Scott Ihaka, from Greater Wellington's Land Management team informed the Group that the Wellington Region Erosion Control Initiative has had a funding increase from \$1.43m to \$1.95m for the 2018/19 programme. This will increase tree planting numbers from 70,000 to 130,000. The team are also looking at applying for further funding in the October round of applications.

Although exotic species (predominantly willow and poplar) are the preferred species for the erosion control programme, the Land Management team have also seen a surge in interest from farmers for native species for a range of applications, from riparian planting to large scale Manuka planting for honey production.

The aim is also to align the land management programmes with further funding direction provided by the Whaitua Implementation Plans which is requiring broad scale planting of seedlings to manage hill side erosion and riparian stream bank erosion in certain catchments.

##### **3.1.2 Establishing Trees for Carbon (Ollie Belton, Carbon Forest Services Ltd)**

The key points from Ollie's presentation were:

- The NZ Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) has completely failed to reduce New Zealand's emissions to date. Only half of eligible forests have joined, with no increase in forests, and even some deforestation as a result. New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions have increased throughout the ETS's operation.
- Things began to change with 2015 Paris Agreement and the end to the availability of cheap, low-integrity, international emissions units. Presently there is an 'abatement gap' between 'business as usual' and where we need to be. The Zero Carbon Act is coming, the Billion Trees programme has started and the carbon price has increased from next to nothing to \$25/tonne. So the conditions have vastly improved for carbon forests.
- There is a conflict between carbon forest and manuka honey farming due to the 5m height threshold for entry into the ETS.
- Passive regeneration of is a risky approach to growing a forest. Sometimes it doesn't happen due to low soil fertility, poor seed-sources and exposure. Using an exotic nurse crop, e.g. sparsely planted eucalyptus or tree Lucerne, works well at promoting native regeneration and is low cost.
- Cross party consensus is important for to hold up the carbon price in the future and give certainty to forest owners.

- Ollie's full presentation can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/9jpmq6t4v04uzfo/Ollie%20Belton%20-%20Carbon%20Forest%20Services%203-9-18.pptx?dl=0>

### 3.1.3 Insurance industry perspective on managing climate change-related risks (Tim Grafton, CEO of the Insurance Council of NZ)

The key discussion points from this presentation were:

- How is risk assessed by insurance companies and where does the data come from? Insurance companies use public information, although larger firms sometimes commission their own.
- What are insurers doing about coal investments e.g. in Australia? They are starting to look at moving their investments out and not insuring those companies. It is mainly European firms doing this at present.
- The industry won't insure against sea level rise, but sea level rise is a factor in events like coastal storms. Does this mean storm cover will not be available? Cover is currently available, but exclusions will start to apply. Banks are likely to be more instrumental than the insurance industry, as insurance contracts are only usually for one year. Banks may start to give 10 year mortgages instead of 30 year mortgages for a home vulnerable to sea level rise. This will send a signal to market.
- Is there potential for collaboration with the government on funding and planning e.g. managed retreat? Globally this is beginning to be worked on: e.g. resilience bonds where you provide forward cover provided you work to reduce your vulnerability. The Insurance Council of NZ is liaising with councils and the government through the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management.
- Will we have uninsurable areas? Yes, if we do not reduce the risk. Insurance is a business not a service. There is not an unlimited appetite for risk within the industry. Competition/affordability means raising everyone's premiums to cover high-risk customers is not a viable business strategy.

Tim's presentation can be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/mmrjl9iyvrxjgkb/Tim%20Grafton%20-%20Insurance%20Council%203-9-18.pptx?dl=0>

### 3.1.4 Update on community-led coastal adaptation planning programme (presented by Cr Roger Blakeley)

Cr Blakely re-presented the presentation that the group discussed with the Mayoral Forum.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8e7t7ox2mw51jqz/Nicki%20Williams%20-%20Coastal%20Planning%20Mayoral%20Forum%2024-8-18.pptx?dl=0>

The Group agreed that now support has been given by the Mayoral Forum (24 August 2018), each member will ensure the template paper to establish a community-led coastal adaptation programme for the Wellington Region is submitted for their Council's approval by 31 October 2018.

### 3.1.5 Proposed regional work programme - Climate change mitigation (Jake Roos, GWRC)

Proposed work programme:

- **Electric Vehicle Support Strategy.** This document is currently being developed to assist Wellington region stakeholders to take a coordinated approach to supporting the uptake of Electric Vehicles in the region. This will also allow stakeholders to make individual commitments within their control that will be consistent with a regional strategy. It is intended to complement Government targets and programmes for promoting Electric Vehicles and reducing emissions, not be a substitute for them. It is part of a broader effort to move to a low (and eventually net-zero) carbon economy. It is being jointly funded by councils in the region as well as Wellington Electricity and Electra. Wellington Electricity is the contracting authority for this work and it will be managed by the Regional Electric Vehicle Working Group.
- **2050 Calculator.** Work on the 2050 Calculator has started, with the technical elements of the project due to be completed by the end of the year. The calculator will assist the community and special interest audiences to understand the existing regional emission profiles, emission mitigation opportunities and determine the overall impact that different policies and activities will have on the emission profile of the Wellington Region up to the middle of the century. Greater Wellington is the contracting authority for this piece of work and it is being managed through the Low Carbon Transition Steering Group.
- **Regional greenhouse gas inventory.** The need to update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory was discussed, and this will be undertaken in the 2019-20 year.

The programme was endorsed by the Working Group.

The Group requested that Jake make his presentation (or an expanded version) available to councils including the combined Wairarapa Councils at their forum on 26 November.

## 3.2 Greater Wellington Councillor Climate Change Working Group

Discussion at the Councillor Climate Change Working Group meeting of 14 September 2018, included:

### *Emissions Trading Scheme*

The Working Group discussed the consultation on the NZ Emissions Trading Scheme. This contributed to the submission that was presented for approval at

Environment Committee on 20 September. The Group also discussed the upcoming workshop on the Emissions Trading Scheme.

*Reflections on LGNZ Climate Change Symposium Friday 7 September*

The Group discussed key learnings from the symposium, in particular the presentation by James Hughes of Tonkin and Taylor about their investigation of local government assets at risk from sea level rise, and its preliminary findings. These findings were that \$1 billion of transport and roading infrastructure and between \$1 billion and \$2 billion of water supply, wastewater and stormwater assets would be exposed if sea levels rose between 50cm and 1m.

All the presentations from the Symposium can be found here:

<http://www.lgnz.co.nz/climate-change-project/supporting-documents/lgnz-climate-change-symposium-2018/>

RNZ reported on the Symposium here:

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/365916/huge-costs-loom-for-councils-as-sea-levels-rise>

*Regional Projects*

The Group discussed the programme of work including the Greenhouse gas emissions 2050 calculator, Electric Vehicle Strategy and the Regional Greenhouse Gas inventory. These projects are discussed above.

**4. Communication**

No external communication is proposed as an outcome of the consideration of this report.

**5. Consideration of climate change**

No decision is being sought in this report. The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the Greater Wellington's Climate Change Consideration Guide. Because this report addresses the actions of Greater Wellington's Climate Change Strategy directly, climate change assessments are not required.

**6. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Nicola Shorten**  
Manager, Strategic and  
Corporate Planning

Report prepared by:

**Jake Roos**  
Acting Climate Change  
Advisor

Report approved by:

**Luke Troy**  
General Manager, Strategy



<b>Report</b>	<b>18.469</b>
Date	21 October 2018
File	CCAB-10-594
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Authors</b>	<b>Sue Kedgley, Chairperson, Environment Committee, Greater Wellington Regional Council</b>

## **Report on Environmental Defence Society (EDS) Climate Change and Business Conference**

### **1. Purpose**

To report to the Environment Committee on the attendance by Cr Sue Kedgley and Cr Roger Blakeley at the 11th Australia-New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference organised by the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) in Auckland on 9, 10 October 2018, including matters that are relevant to GWRC.

### **2. Background**

After years of slow progress in climate policy, the Government has set New Zealand on a path of profound change. A Zero Carbon Bill setting long term emissions reduction targets and establishing an independent Climate Commission is due to be introduced to Parliament “soon”. This was the context of this year’s EDS 11th annual Climate Change and Business Conference. It considered how boards will respond to fundamental disruption of business as usual, including major land use changes, rapid deployment of new technologies and innovations across the economy and society, and expectations on business to reduce emissions rapidly and address adaptation risks. It focused on recognition by Boards that reporting on risks and opportunities to the business caused by Climate Change is a fiduciary obligation. That obligation must be reflected in financial reporting and disclosure of Climate Change-related risks. Such obligations are also relevant to central and local government agencies, and need to be addressed by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

#### **Report on conference**

*Day 1, Tuesday 9 October 2018*

*Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change* talked about Aotearoa’s transition plan, and the Government’s climate policy package. He said that he

was not yet able to talk about the outcomes of the recent consultation on the Zero Carbon Bill. He said that the Bill will be introduced to the House “soon”, and the Climate Commission will be up and running next year.

**Dr Dan Hikuroa, Senior Lecturer, Maori Studies, University of Auckland** called for a just transition. “Māori have been here before – knowledge, innovation, tough choices. Ensure (Emissions Trading Scheme) ETS doesn’t preclude Māori. Māori voice on the Climate Commission. Draw from mātauranga and science. Think collectively. Make tika decisions.”

“We are geared toward innovative and revolutionary thinking, and practical and sustainable solutions.” Sir Paul Reeves Hui Taumata, 1 March 2005

**Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment**, Ministry for the Environment, gave a policy update on the ETS, 1 billion trees programme, Transport, the Interim Climate Committee, and the Adaptation Technical Working Group.

**Hon Scott Simpson, MP for Coromandel** and Opposition Spokesperson on the Environment, said “it is safe to assume there is broad agreement across Parliament on the direction on Climate Change issues.”

**Simon Watt, Partner, Bell Gully** gave a presentation: “How climate change and rising carbon prices will affect business”.

Climate change will have a much more material effect on businesses as carbon budgets are set and there is a sinking lid on carbon emissions, which will increase the carbon price. The Productivity Commission predicts the carbon price will increase to between \$75 and \$250 per tonne.

There will be a 3-decade transition, however, which will enable businesses to adjust. In the UK, which has had carbon budgets and a Climate Commission for a decade, businesses welcome government regulation and carbon budgets as it provides certainty going forward.

Simon Watt pointed out that the carbon price had collapsed after 2011, because businesses were able to access phoney international credits and the National government imposed a \$25 cap on the price of carbon. But as soon as that cap is lifted, the cost will rise and this will impact on business—and transport—and everyone else!

The issues for businesses will be

- 1/ Whether they will be able to absorb the rising cost of carbon, or whether they will pass these costs onto consumers.
- 2/ What businesses can do to reduce their emissions other than obvious things like switching their vehicle fleets to EVs.
- 3/ Business innovations will increasingly be driven by a desire to avoid the steadily rising carbon price.
- 4/ Company valuations will increasingly factor in exposure to climate change

risks including the rising cost of carbon.

5/ There will be much more focus on environmental reporting. Councils will be expected to focus on this as well.

6/ Rising carbon prices will make climate change an increasingly strategic risk, which will be on the Board agenda of every business — much like Health and Safety.

7/ The rising carbon price will affect the competitiveness of business.

8/ Rising carbon prices will increase the cost of transporting products and services.

9/ There will be all sorts of new opportunities for businesses, which are proactive and which look for low carbon alternatives for doing business.

**Abbie Reynolds, CEO of the Sustainable Business Council** In 2107, 35 businesses signed up to a Climate Leaders' Coalition. There are now 70 businesses in the coalition. These companies are responsible for 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand and are committed to decarbonising their businesses.

**Chris Stark, Chief Executive, UK Climate Commission** talked about the UK Climate Act: what's worked, what hasn't, and what NZ can do better.

All main car manufacturers are talking about switching to non-combustion engines and some have set targets to stop manufacturing them.

In the UK, the Climate Commission is finding that politics is the biggest barrier to addressing climate change. For example they have set their 5th five-year carbon budget, but Parliament has yet to sign it off. He referred to NIMTO— 'not in my term of office.'

He quoted Lord Nicholas Stern: "The costs of inaction in response to climate change will be far bigger than the costs of action".

There has been a 40% fall in emissions in the UK since 1990, while at the same time there has been a 70% increase in GDP. But it's not enough to pass legislation

Transport sector is the worst emitter and there needs to be a transition to EV.

Developed countries will need to lead the way and move faster.

**Mike Barry, Director of Sustainable Business, Marks and Spencer** on a pre-recorded interview said: "Every product has to have a sustainable story to tell, which must be consistent and believable". The secret of success on sustainability is to be one step ahead of the customer. He described the UK Climate Act as "a bold goal to decarbonise the UK economy". It leaves enough room for business to innovate.

**David Riley, Head of Carbon and Energy, Anglian Water, UK** talked about "Our Carbon Journey – Reduce Carbon, Reduce Cost". Anglian Water publishes an Annual Report on Greenhouse Gas Emissions. In 2015 they

reported that capital carbon had been reduced by 45% overall from the 2010 baseline. Operational carbon exceeded a 10% reduction in real terms since 2010. There were corresponding reductions in cost. Anglian Water won the British Construction Industry Awards – Carbon Reduction Project of the year 2017. We have referred this presentation to Colin Crampton, CE Wellington Water.

**Sarah Barker, Special Counsel, Minter Ellison, Australia**, a commercial lawyer and pension fund board member, stressed that a director is beholden to obey the Companies Act and act in the best interests of the company.

Directors must consider climate change in order to discharge their duties, and climate-change risks must be disclosed.

Directors are liable if they fail to identify; disclose; mitigate and adapt to climate change risk. It is a material financial risk and investors are increasingly demanding that directors have a good understanding of, and disclose, the financial and other risks of climate change. They must consider climate change as a foreseeable financial risk.

At the World Economic Forum 2016, ‘Failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation’ was identified as the number one risk for ‘impact’ and the number three risk for ‘Likelihood’ facing the global community. ‘Large-scale involuntary migration’ and ‘Extreme weather events’ were identified as the numbers one and two risks under ‘Likelihood’.

“A wave of awareness is flowing through the business community about the risks of climate change.”

Would a reasonable investor invest if they had full disclosure of the climate change risks? Directors have a duty to exercise care in assessing climate change risks. Also need to consider the economic transition risks.

Already there is litigation with some parties alleging that companies have breached their duties over climate change because they failed to adequately include climate change in their business plan.

Increasingly investors are analysing property portfolios for climate change risk.

Directors need to consider what questions they must ask to assure themselves that they have adequately considered climate change. What effect would a 2-3% increase in climate risks have on their assets and what strategic plans do they have in place to deal with and mitigate those risks?

There is a need for mandatory climate-related financial disclosure around climate risk.

"Whenever you try to talk about an environmental issue with a board, it doesn't matter whether they think climate change is a 'thing' or not. You need to speak to them in language they understand, which is their fiduciary obligations."

Since climate change spans not only physical impacts but also threats of regulatory intervention, political action, and changing consumer preferences – to name but a few of the risks – no company board worth its salt can just dismiss the issue and move on.

Even more to the point, the 2015 Paris global climate change accord, which is "the mother of all market signals", matters to the people whom directors should care about most: their investors.

Larry Fink, American is chief executive of the world's largest fund manager, BlackRock, which manages more than US\$6 trillion of assets and is a presence on the register of virtually every company listed on a stock exchange anywhere in the world. Fink's annual letter to the boards of those thousands of companies warned that BlackRock would be exploring climate change in interviews with non-executive directors over the coming year.

He would be looking for "demonstrable fluency" on climate change and, where it was lacking, disinvestment was likely to follow.

When addressed in those terms, considering the potential impacts of climate change becomes a "board non-negotiable".

In 2017, Moody's warned cities to address climate risks or face downgrades.

To the vast majority of New Zealand small businesses, where the directors and shareholders are very often the same people, talking in trillions of dollars and oversight by global investors is not strictly relevant.

However, in a country with the seventh-longest coastline in the world, every business with either operations, customers or dependence on roads or other services situated on low-lying coastal land needs to consider what happens if the sea swallows any of them in the next few decades.

**Lloyd Kavanagh, Board Chair and Partner Financial Services, MinterEllisonRuddWatts** said "Scrutiny of risks and opportunities is key as well as management and disclosure".

**Pip Best, Director, NZ Climate Change and Sustainability Services Team, EY** said "Choose a methodology for analysing climate change that focuses on material risks and bring the whole organization along for the journey" and "Improve disclosures. Have you considered integrated reporting?" Companies should be doing scenario planning – what impact would runaway climate change have on their business plan? Potential impacts need to be clear to their investors.

### ***Day 2, Wednesday 10 October 2018***

We were not able to be present for Day 2 because of a CCDHB Board meeting. The following is the communiqué for that day from the EDS website.

The twin challenges of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to prevent disastrous levels of climate change and dealing with the impacts that are now unavoidable dominated discussion on day two of the *Climate Change and Business Conference*.

From the challenges of developing the rule book to put the Paris Agreement into action, to the future of carbon prices at home and abroad (New Zealand carbon is at the record price of \$25.25, while the price of European carbon has gone up 300 per cent in a year), businesses said they were having to make investment decisions amid a good deal of uncertainty.

OM Financials head of financial markets, Nigel Brunel, said that while he had been bullish about carbon for a long time, prices could collapse again if the countries signed up to the Paris Agreement fail to put it into action.

Different views on how much New Zealand's farming sector needs to reduce methane emissions dominated a discussion on the agricultural sector. Agricultural emissions make up nearly half New Zealand's total greenhouse gas emissions, and most of it is methane from the digestive process of ruminant animals.

Physicist Professor Dave Frame said that an annual reduction in methane emission of 0.3 per cent year, coupled with big cuts in carbon dioxide emissions, would make a dramatic difference in global warming, but Generation Zero policy lead James Young-Drew said that while there was an argument for treating short-lived gases like methane differently from long-lived gases like carbon dioxide, drastic cuts were needed in the near future.

But cutting emissions is only part of the climate change challenge, the record-sized audience heard. Dr Judy Lawrence, who led the Government's Climate Change Adaptation Technical Working Group, said that adapting to the now-unavoidable impacts of climate change could be more difficult and more expensive than cutting emissions.

Her views were echoed by Dunedin Mayor and Local Government New Zealand chair Dave Cull. Repeating his call for the establishment of a local government resilience agency, he said many of the local councils at the frontline in dealing with rising sea levels and other impacts don't have the skills and resources to do what needs to be done.

Environment minister David Parker – the architect of the 10-year-old Emissions Trading Scheme – wrapped up the conference on a note of optimism, saying he was confident New Zealand could do what needs to be done.

“If New Zealand doesn’t do it, then the world won’t,” he said. “We have so many advantages, as well as having a moral duty to act.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern echoed his optimism. In a pre-recorded message played to close the conference, she said that taking action on climate change made economic sense as well as environmental sense.

“This is the opportunity of a lifetime to upgrade our businesses and our economy,” she said.

“Intellectual property around low-emissions technologies are already sought-after and offer profitable returns.

The conference also saw the New Zealand premiere of the documentary *The Human Element*, by New Zealander Olivia Ahnemann, about the effect humans are having on the traditional elements of earth, wind, fire and water. The film has been brought to New Zealand by the business organisation Pure Advantage and can be viewed online here.

The next *Climate Change and Business Conference* will be held in Auckland on October 8-9, 2019.

### **3. Communication**

No external communication is proposed as an outcome of the consideration of this report. However, the recommended action will lead to greater public disclosure of GWRC’s Climate Change-related risks and opportunities.

### **4. Consideration of climate change**

The matters requiring decision in this report have not yet been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide. That would be part of the next step in the process, if the recommendations are agreed.

#### **4.1 Mitigation assessment**

The Councillor-authors have considered the effect of the matter on the climate. The primary purpose of the paper is to report to the Environment Committee on important issues raised at the EDS Conference. The recommendation to consider greater financial disclosure of the Climate Change-related risks and opportunities for GWRC could have a positive impact on mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions that are the responsibility of Council. That would be a matter for analysis by officers and report back to the committee.

The Councillor-authors note that the proposed action could affect the Council’s interests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI). This would be included in a Detailed Scenario Analysis (DSA) by officers for report back to the committee.

## 4.2 Adaptation assessment

The recommendation to consider greater financial disclosure of the Climate Change-related risks and opportunities for GWRC could have a positive impact on matters of adaptation to climate change that are the responsibility of Council. That would be an issue for analysis by officers and report back to the committee. That would be considered in a Detailed Scenario Analysis.

## 5. The decision-making process and significance

The Councillor-authors have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. They recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance, as it is only recommending a report from officers. They do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

### 5.1 Engagement

Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the level of significance assessed. In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

## 6. Recommendations

*That the Committee*

1. **Receives the report.**
2. **Notes the content of the report.**
3. **Agrees to request officers to report back to the Committee on greater disclosure of financial and other risks and opportunities, relating to Council's regulatory and operational responsibilities, as an annual statement in its Annual Report about the climate change risks it faces and the steps it is taking to mitigate and adapt to those risks.**

Report prepared by:

**Cr Kedgley**  
Chairperson, Environment  
Committee

Report prepared by:

**Cr Blakeley**  
Councillor



**Report** 2018.502  
**Date** 31 October 2018  
**File** CCAB-10-632

**Committee** Environment  
**Author** Tim Sharp , Whaitua Programme Manager

## Whaitua programme update – October 2018

### 1. Purpose

To provide information to the Environment Committee on the status of the three active whaitua projects and any key upcoming work.

### 2. Background

The whaitua process is a community-led, collaborative planning process to address a number of land and water management issues and carry out GWRC's obligations under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM). The programme aims to improve the integration of activities and achieve better resource management practices that reflect local aspirations.

The Wellington Region has been divided into five whaitua or catchments. Whaitua committees, consisting of community members, iwi representatives, partner representatives, and GWRC representatives will make recommendations to the Council through a Whaitua Implementation Programme (WIP) report. A WIP will contain strategies and actions that will form a programme of work for the management of land and water in that catchment.

The project involves partnering with mana whenua and as well as having significant community input, and connects with relevant stakeholders.

A Collaborative Modelling Project has supported the first two Whaitua Committees by feeding knowledge into their decision-making process. Experts in the various topic areas (for example ecologists, economists, social scientists) work collaboratively to ensure information and data is up to date and to provide expert advice to the Whaitua Committee when required. A different modelling approach is being developed for Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

### **3. Ruamāhanga Whaitua**

#### **3.1 Progress since the last update**

The Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee (the Committee) completed and presented its WIP to Council on 16 August 2018.

Council accepted the WIP and expressed its gratitude to the Committee for its diligent, collaborative and excellent work in reaching consensus on 109 recommendations.

#### **3.2 Key work in the coming months**

Officers are now in the process of reviewing the WIP to determine the various tasks for GWRC implementation.

The Environment Policy Team is in the process of drafting a chapter for the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (PNRP) accompanied by an RMA Section 32 analysis drawing on the WIP recommendations. Members of the Committee have been retained to provide input in to this work.

### **4. The Whaitua Implementation Design Team has begun its task of considering the task implications within the Freshwater Management Update (FMU) framework from the WIP on GWRC and external parties. Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua**

#### **4.1 Progress since last quarter**

Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua Committee (the Committee) has finalised the majority of its draft objectives for the Whaitua and is now in the process of confirming limits and loads and other recommendations for its WIP. A first draft of the WIP has been prepared.

Objectives, while still draft until finalisation of the WIP, have been preliminarily confirmed in the fresh water and harbour. Attributes selected for objective setting in the harbour are the sedimentation rate, the percentage area of soft mud, copper, zinc, macroalgae and invertebrates, numeric sedimentation rate and pathogens. In the fresh water the attributes are ammonia toxicity, nitrate toxicity, *E.coli*, dissolved zinc and copper, native fish, the Macroinvertebrate Index and periphyton.

Ngāti Toa Rangatira is in regular contact with the project team, and aim to deliver their report at the same time as the WIP.

Committee and project team members met with Wellington City Councillors to discuss the policy direction of the WIP, and councillors were largely supportive.

The Committee has held a number of public meetings to test and promote its work including with rural landowners, developers and residents associations. These meetings have been well attended with a lot of interest being shown and generally strong support where the Committee is heading. Concern has been

raised at the likely costs and where they will fall but there has been little disagreement with the Committee's draft objectives.

Project team members have been working closely with officers from the territorial authorities and Wellington Water to align policy outcomes between the Whaitua Implementation Programme, and district, infrastructure investment, urban growth and structure plans.

#### **4.2 Key work in the coming months**

A Committee workshop to be held on 27-28 October is expected to make significant progress on the first draft of the WIP. This weekend workshop will attempt to reach consensus on policies for managing storm water, urban contaminants (e.g., metals from greenfield, brownfield and existing developments), earthworks, forestry, water allocation, river form and habitat, erosion prone land, stock access and wastewater.

The Committee's focus is also on external engagement with stakeholders and the community.

The Committee will provide a draft WIP update to Te Upoko Taiao-Natural Resources Plan Committee later in November.

The Committee will provide a draft WIP to Council at its mid-December meeting. It is anticipated that this draft will include all of the Committee's recommendations, and that the WIP will be finalised early in 2019.

### **5. Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara**

#### **5.1 Progress since last quarter**

Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Ngāti Toa Rangatira have confirmed that the Te reo name for the Hutt Valley and Wellington Whaitua will be Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara. Council has approved this name.

Council is to appoint membership of the Committee at its meeting on 31 October.

43 community applications were received, of which 8 have been recommended to council for appointment.

#### **5.2 Key work in the coming months**

The focus of work in the coming months will be:

- Liaising with Committee members to assist them to engage effectively in the process
- Preparation for first Committee meeting in December 2018
- Continuing developing buy-in with partners
- Developing support material for Councillors to help in conversations when being asked about the Whaitua and set up.

## **6. Communication**

No external communication is proposed as an outcome of the consideration of this report.

## **7. Consideration of climate change**

No decision is being sought in this report.

The matters addressed in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

### **7.1 Mitigation assessment**

*Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.*

Officers have considered the effect of the matter on the climate.

Officers note that the matter currently does not affect the Council's interests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) or the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI). However, recommendations made by the Whaitua Committees could provide a co-benefit of mitigating climate change. For example, the retirement and planting of erosion-prone land could give effect to sequestering carbon, however this will not be able to be further analysed until the Committees make their recommendations. Officers involved in this work will ensure this is considered in the final WIP reports.

### **7.2 Adaptation assessment**

*Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.*

Consideration of climate change adaption has been built into the collaborative modelling projects which support each whaitua project.

Climate change impacts on rainfall and catchment hydrology are being modelled and will be applied to the scenarios developed by the Committees. This information will allow for analysis of changes in contaminant generation, water allocation and flow, and the effectiveness of mitigations (such as storm water treatment, erosion and sediment control) on a catchment-by-catchment basis.

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

No decision is being sought in this report. This report is for Environment Committee members to receive an update on the progress of the three whaitua projects.

### **8.1 Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

## 9. Recommendations

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Tim Sharp**  
Programme Manager,  
Whaitua

Report approved by:

**Matthew Hickman**  
Manager, Environmental  
Policy

Report approved by:

**Lucy Baker**  
Acting General Manager,  
Environmental Management  
Group



**Report** 18.479  
**Date** 17 October 2018  
**File** CCAB-10-629

**Committee** Environment Committee  
**Author** Lucy Harper, Team Leader, Environmental Policy  
Claire Conwell, Senior Environmental Scientist

## **Recreational water quality monitoring programme and regional swimming targets**

### **1. Purpose**

Greater Wellington coordinates the region's recreational water quality monitoring programme, which is communicated to the public on our website under the "Is it safe to swim?" campaign. The information is gathered in partnership with the territorial authorities, Wellington Water and Regional Public Health. All parties have agreed to change the approach of the programme, which will improve both the risk based messages of recreational water quality information and the efficiency of the delivery of the programme. These changes are outlined in the paper.

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (as amended in August 2017) (NPS-FM) directs all regional councils to set regional targets to improve the quality of fresh water so they are suitable for primary contact more often. The regional targets are presented for approval for adoption by Council.

### **2. A new approach to recreational water quality monitoring for the Wellington region**

GWRC has carried out weekly surveillance monitoring at river and beach sites for over a decade, underpinning the risk information communicated via the recreational water quality monitoring programme. However, recent advice to officers highlighted there is compelling evidence that health risk information based on weekly surveillance monitoring programmes is more often incorrect than is correct for advising the public whether it is safe to swim at our beaches or rivers. This advice also touched on the need for the responsible agencies, knowing that a monitoring programme is flawed, to make some changes.

With this in mind, the approach of the region's recreational water quality monitoring programme has been re-designed, with cooperation and support from territorial authorities, Wellington Water and Regional Public Health.

The fundamental flaw of the traditional approach is that messages about human health are based on a single weekly sample result, which is significantly out of date by the time it reaches the public. The change in the approach we are implementing is a shift to a risk-based message that is updated on a daily basis.

For the microbial risk component, this risk-based framework combines historical microbial grades, updated rain as well as forecasted rain. Additional information/alerts (i.e. sewage overflow events) from territorial authorities and Wellington Water will also be linked into the overall risk assessment.

For the toxic algae component of the programme, a sentinel site network has been designed, with targeted monitoring ensuring the high risk sites are closely tracked, and a tiered response framework is implemented if toxic algae risks increase in a catchment.

The risk-based framework allows us to report the highest risk category for the public – represented as a ‘traffic light’ colour code, i.e. green (safe for swimming), amber (caution advised), red (unsuitable for swimming).

In essence the public will see a single risk message that will be communicated via the usual tools we have recently used – i.e. GWRC’s ‘Is it safe to swim?’ interactive map, and LAWA’s ‘Can I swim here?’ website. Social media also gives us the flexibility to adapt key risk messages as needed.

The shift to risk based framework mirrors closely similar approaches adopted by the Australian Victorian and New South Wales Environment Protection Authorities (the equivalent regulatory function as NZ regional councils), and more recently by Auckland Council’s ‘Safeswim’ programme. Our approach is endorsed by Puhoi Stour consultants who programme manage the Auckland Council ‘Safeswim’ programme, and recently provided tiered options for GWRC to consider in re-focussing our programme.

To maintain quality control of the new approach we are also maintaining monitoring across selected sites in order to validate our new model and to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. This will include targeted monitoring at known problem areas to drive improvements in water quality.

### **3. Swimming targets**

#### **Background to regional targets**

A regional sector approach has been adopted for the setting of the swimming targets as required by the 2017 NPS-FM amendments. This included modelling of all regions by the Ministry for the Environment and development of a template for all regions to use. The model identified improvements from the current state that would be expected under programmes that were planned or underway, the timing and the anticipated costs of those interventions.

The draft targets were then made publically available through our website in March. Since then, the coalition Government has announced a new water package that has, in some ways, shifted away from a swimming target focus. We are proposing that Council adopts the draft targets as final, allowing an update with each whaitua regional plan variation/change if required.

## **Our regional approach**

MfE's modelling indicated that the overall swimming state of larger rivers in the region was currently 65% and that our current policies and rules will get us to 75% of rivers swimmable (as defined by the NPS-FM). For larger lakes, 75% are already in the acceptable category.

Over time, the expected response to the introduction of environmental limits for water quantity and quality through the plan variations/changes initiated by our whaitua process will result in improvements in swimming states beyond these figures. However, until the community values have been expressed through this process, it would be premature to change the targets and pre-empt that collaborative process.

To reach the targets the regional priorities are to continue to implement the proposed Natural Resources Plan, both thorough regulatory actions such as the global stormwater consents and non-regulatory initiatives such as stock exclusion programmes and protection of significant wetlands.

The template provided by MfE for reporting regional targets has been populated ([Attachment 1](#)) and our recommendation is that this Committee recommends the targets to Council to be approved.

## **4. Communication**

The Customer Engagement (CE) Team has updated the communications package for the recreational water quality monitoring programme, including the pro-active 'business as usual' communication tools, as well as reactive response tools when high risks are identified.

Communication tools remain largely unchanged from previous seasons, and include a combination of website information (including links to LAWA), social media campaigns and updates, print and radio advertising. The CE Team has worked to coordinate a more consistent theme across these tools in order to ensure that key messages are recognisable and clear to the public.

We will also be tracking uptake by the public on websites and social media to gauge public opinion on the accessibility and use of the new method.

The regional targets, once approved by Council, will be posted on the GWRC website, as required by the NPS-FM.

## **5. Consideration of climate change**

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

### **5.1 Mitigation assessment**

Officers have considered the effect of the matter on the climate.

Officers consider that the amended recreational water quality monitoring programme will have no effect, and any implications to climate change of

programmes to meet the regional targets will have been taken into account when the individual programmes were approved. Officers note that the matter does not affect the Council's interests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) or the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI).

## **5.2 Adaptation assessment**

Officers have considered the impacts of climate change in relation to the matter. Officers recommend that climate change has no bearing on the recreational water quality monitoring programme.

Any effects of climate change on the ability of council and the region to meet the regional swimming targets will be assessed as programmes are reviewed and further programmes are developed to reach the targets. Climate change is factored in to modelling for the whitua process. In addition, the monitoring that will be required to measure the progress towards limits set by the whitua will allow for continual re-assessment of the implications of climate change

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

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). Part 6 sets out the obligations of local authorities in relation to the making of decisions.

### **6.1 Significance of the decision**

Part 6 requires Greater Wellington Regional Council to consider the significance of the decision. The term 'significance' has a statutory definition set out in the Act.

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines into account. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

The change to the recreational water quality monitoring programme is a redesign of existing work, to better safeguard the community and does not involve additional funding or engagement. The posting of regional targets on the website fulfils a responsibility under the NPS-FM and there are no additional costs or further engagement requirements.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

### **6.2 Engagement**

Engagement on the matters contained in this report aligns with the level of significance assessed. In accordance with the significance and engagement policy, no engagement on the matters for decision is required.

## **7. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the changes to the recreational water quality monitoring programme.*
3. *Recommends that Council adopts the regional swimming targets as final.*
4. *Notes that the regional swimming targets will be amended as each whaitua process is integrated into the Natural Resources Plan.*

Report prepared by:

**Lucy Harper**  
Team Leader, Environmental  
Policy

Report prepared by:

**Claire Conwell**  
Senior Environmental  
Scientist  
Environmental Science

Report approved by:

**Matt Hickman**  
Manager, Environmental  
Policy

Report approved by:

**Lucy Baker**  
Acting General Manager,  
Environment Management

**Attachment 1 Regional Swimming targets for website**

## Regional Swimming Targets for the Wellington Region

### Introduction

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (as amended in August 2017) directs all regional councils (including unitary authorities) to set draft regional targets to improve the quality of fresh water so they are suitable for primary contact more often. This information sheet has been prepared to meet this requirement. “Primary contact” includes swimming, and means people’s contact with fresh water that involves immersion in the water. Being suitable for primary contact more often includes improvements in water quality from one state to another (for example, orange to yellow, yellow to green, or green to blue).

All regional councils have worked together to use the best information available to identify:

- The improvements that will be made to water quality in rivers and lakes in the Wellington region under programmes that are planned or underway
- When the anticipated water quality improvements will be achieved
- The likely costs of all interventions, and where these costs will fall

A report on these theoretical improvements and costs, presented region by region, is available [here](#). The assumptions and limitations of the modelling approaches taken are described in the report.

### Regional context and focus

The overall swimmable state of the Wellington region’s rivers is currently 65% swimmable (that is, 65% of rivers that are fourth order or larger are in the blue, green or yellow category in terms of *E. coli*). For lakes with perimeters greater than 1500 metres, 75% are in the blue, green or yellow category in terms of cyanobacteria based on the status quo.

The regional priorities for the Wellington region are to continue to implement the proposed Natural Resources Plan, including excluding stock from waterbodies, protection of significant wetlands, ensuring stormwater is appropriately managed, working with partners to reduce sewage overflows and working with industry to implement good management practice for water use and waste storage/disposal and in rural land management.

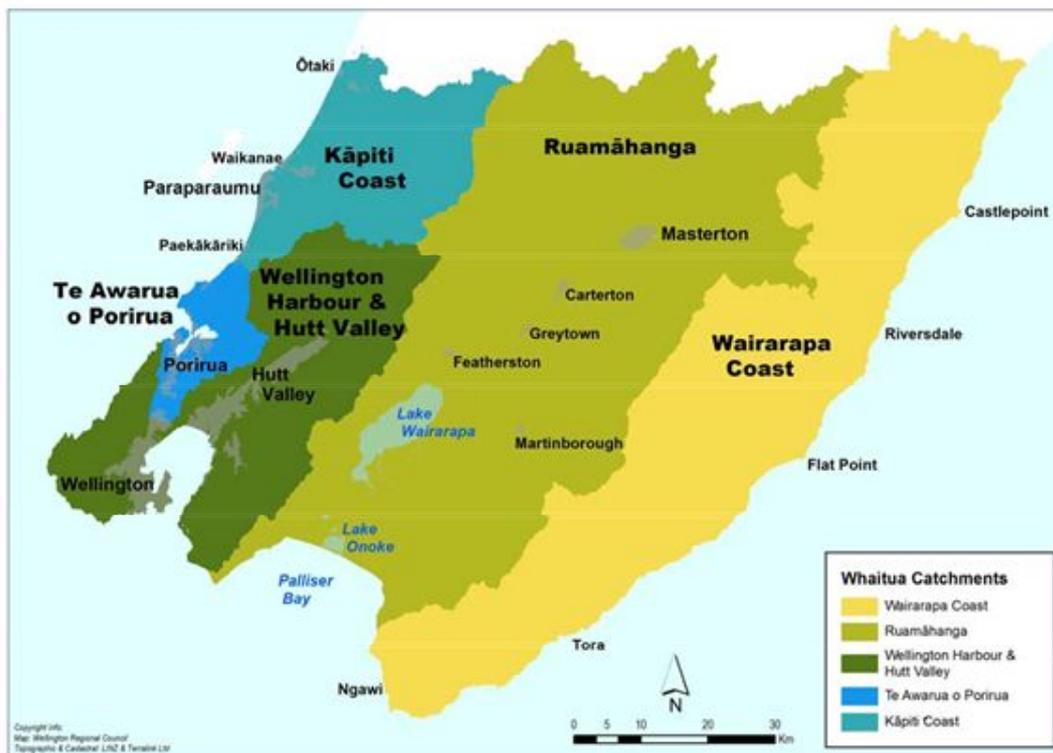
Over the next seven years, we will be introducing environmental limits for both water quantity and water quality. This will affect everyone in the region, urban and rural areas alike. These limits are being delivered via [Greater Wellington’s Whaitua programme](#) and the targets will be updated to reflect the limits proposed by the community. The Wellington Region has been split into five whaitua (catchments) with a committee in each making decisions on the future of land and water management in that whaitua, including to deliver recommendations on the implementation of the NPS-FM policy CA2 to set freshwater objectives for all freshwater management units.

The following whaitua committees have been established:

- [Ruamāhanga Whaitua](#) – established 2013, completed 2018. Whaitua Implementation Plan 2018 is [here](#)
- [Te Awarua-o-Porirua Whaitua](#) – established December 2014
- [Te Whanganui-a-Tara](#) – established December 2017, first meeting late 2018.

The following two committees to be established are:

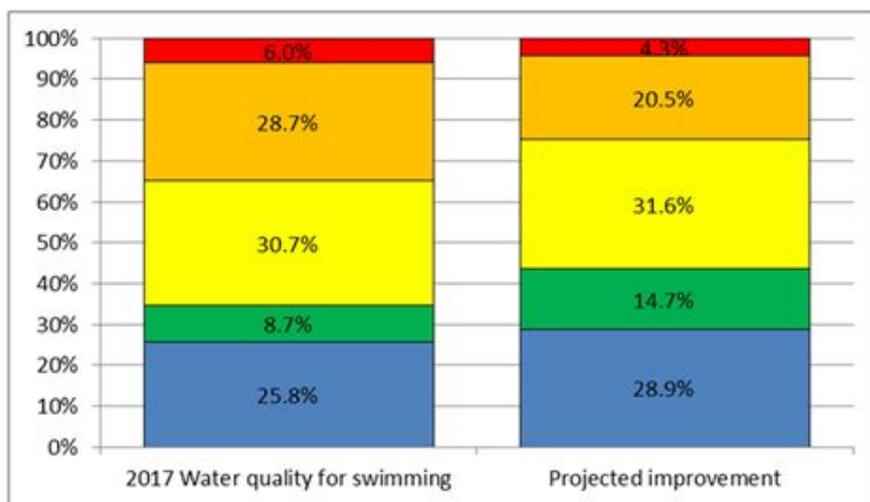
- Kāpiti Coast Whaitua
- Wairarapa Coast Whaitua.



An important aspect to note is that the actions that will result from the limits set by the whaitua programme are not included in the regional targets.

### Regional targets

The primary contact targets for the Wellington region, based on modelling of programmes underway (excluding the Whaitua programme), are for 75% of rivers that are fourth order or larger to be in the blue, green or yellow category in terms of *E. coli*, by 2030 (shown in the graph below).



The work did not model the projected improvement in water quality for swimming in lakes, but the current state is that 75% of lakes in the Wellington Region are in the blue green or yellow category, based on E coli and toxic algae counts.

### Regional process from here

The modelling undertaken shows that we can, with our planned and committed actions over the years, reach a draft target of 75% swimmable rivers for the region by 2030. This shows that the rules in the proposed Natural Resources Plan do improve rivers for swimming. We can anticipate our whaitua process will improve swimming quality further.

We are assessing how the programmes and projects which are underway, and the new initiatives planned for the future, can further improve the ability of the region to meet the swimming targets. There will be the opportunity to refine where we want the improvements to happen through the whaitua process.

- The proposed Natural Resources Plan has time bound rules for excluding stock from many rural waterways and the Council supports this work with an assisted funding programme and riparian planting in addition to the anticipated national stock exclusion regulations.
- Improvements to our urban infrastructure networks and especially for stormwater discharges will be required through consent processes. These improvements are an expensive undertaking and the costs have not been fully accounted for in the model. To improve urban waterways and the eventual coastal water quality the community will need to recognise and support the funding requirements.
- Municipal wastewater discharges to freshwater are to be improved in quality and increasingly discharged to land over time. Again the community will need to recognise and support the funding requirements.
- Toxic algae in our rivers are a health hazard which affects the public use of waterways. We will continue to research the dynamics of these algal growth and potential mitigation.

31 December 2018



<b>Report</b>	<b>2018.451</b>
Date	24 October 2018
File	CCAB-10-590
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Lucy Baker, Acting General Manager, Environment Management Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management Luke Troy, General Manager, Strategy</b>

## **General Managers' report to the Environment Committee meeting on 31 October 2018**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Environment Committee of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) activities relating to the Committee's areas of responsibilities.

### **2. Key/Strategic Issues**

#### **2.1 Regional Pest Management Plan 2019 – 2039 (RPMP)**

The proposed Regional Pest Management Plan 2019 – 2039 (RPMP) was released for public consultation from June 30th – July 27th. 134 submissions were received on the proposed plan containing a wide variety of viewpoints ranging from strong support to strong opposition.

The Summary of Submissions and Staff Recommendations Report was made available to the public, and all submitters were notified on 5 October.

- A Public Hearing will take place on the 23 & 24 October to hear submitters, with a Council Officers Reply Hearing Day taking place on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- The project timeline has extended from the original project plan timeline. It is proposed that the new RPMP will be implemented early 2019 (as opposed to the planned October 2018 date).

#### **2.2 Government releases new freshwater package**

The coalition Government has released a new work programme to deliver improvement in water quality. The Government is committed to delivering a noticeable improvement in water quality within five years. Its work programme for the next two years is set out in the document [Essential Freshwater: Healthy Water, Fairly Allocated](#).

The *Essential Freshwater* work programme has three main objectives:

1. **Stopping further degradation and loss** – taking a series of actions now to stop the state of our freshwater resources, waterways and ecosystems getting worse and to start making immediate improvements so that water quality is materially improving within five years.
2. **Reversing past damage** – promoting restoration activity to bring our freshwater resources, waterways and ecosystems to a healthy state within a generation, including through a revised National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and other legal instruments.
3. **Addressing water allocation issues** – working to achieve efficient and fair allocation of freshwater and nutrient discharges, having regard to all interests including Māori, and existing and potential new users.

Further detail is provided in the Environmental Policy section below.

### **2.3 GW funding requirements to meet 1 billion trees opportunities**

Current funding policy for the Wellington Region Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI) Programme sets out a proportional funding split of 30/30/40 from MPI/GW/landowner.

With the opportunities arising from MPI's 1 billion trees programme officers propose to move away from this funding policy. Details of a future four year, 2019-2023, contract with MPI are in progress. However, the proposed funding split is anticipated to be greater than 30% from MPI, less than 30% from GWRC, and less than 40% from landowners. This is being done in order to maximise access to MPI's 1 billion trees funding, to recognise the limitations set within our LTP budget of regional rates funding applied to the WRECI programme, and to increase the incentives offered to landowners to engage with erosion risk mitigation and soil conservation works on their land. Staff will schedule a workshop with Councillors following completion of contract negotiations with MPI.

### **2.4 Regional Biodiversity Framework**

The Biodiversity department has held four successful public workshops and received good support for the Regional Biodiversity Framework concept. There appears to be a lot of potential particularly for agencies to collaboratively prioritise work, share best practice and provide more coordinated biodiversity support to the community. The next steps are to finish the initial public engagement and establish an external working group that will design the framework. The group is expected to be in place and getting under way in the New Year. This work is happening alongside the Wairarapa - 'Pukaha to Palliser' community initiative, which is in the process of forming a governance group and operational structure. This project should fit well with the Regional Biodiversity Framework initiative in future.

## **2.5 Upcoming Mast Seeding Year**

A mast seeding year is predicted for 2019, which will be bigger than the 2014 mast year that led to DOC's 'Battle for the Birds' programme. Mast years produce a bumper crop of fruit that lead to an increased number of rodents followed by mustelids, which then have a negative impact on native bird populations. The Biodiversity department is currently investigating how to respond to the mast at key sites next winter (e.g. mainland islands within Wainuiomata/Orongorongo and East Harbour Northern Forest KNE sites).

## **2.6 Te Kauru FMP Next Steps**

Good progress has been made on the development of options for the rural reaches of the rivers in this project area. We have also made good progress with MDC on the Waipoua urban reach with draft flood maps that will be used for the development of mitigation options. The draft flood maps are intended to be released to the public following MDC Council and the Environment Committee meetings on 31 Oct 2018. A copy of the draft maps, press release and a "Frequently asked Questions" list will be tabled at the meeting for Councillors.

## **3. Catchment Management**

### **3.1 Biosecurity**

#### **3.1.1 Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme (RPPCP)**

The RPPCP for 2018/19 includes 110,000 ha of possum control and 3,900 ha of mustelid control. To date 18,000 ha of possum control has been completed. Lambing has delayed access on some properties and typical winter conditions have made undertaking operations very difficult. By mid-late September these problems were starting to alleviate themselves.

#### **3.1.2 Pukaha Mt Bruce Rat Control**

BioWorks have been planning an aerial-1080 rat control operation on behalf of DOC Pukaha Mt Bruce due to high rat numbers in the Reserve. High rat numbers will lead to an increased stoat population and subsequent prey-switching to native birds, chicks and eggs as the year progresses and thus threatening the success of Kokako and other bird breeding.

#### **3.1.3 Battle for our Birds**

BioWorks has been in discussions with the DOC to assist with their Battle for our Birds programme for next year. DOC is seeking able contractors throughout the country to treat large areas by aerial-1080 as an expected high mast year looms.

#### **3.1.4 NZ Autotraps AT220 Trial**

The Pest Animals team are currently trialling two new self-resetting predator traps. The traps have been nicknamed 'Steam Punk' due to their crazy looking design, with large cogs and pumps. The possum, rat or mustelid will approach the killing part of the trap breaking an infrared sensor line which activates the trap. The traps have been tested and passed the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) humane test for possums. Despite some initial

technical issues, we know the trial traps have killed at least 13 possums and at least one rat in the first week. Further testing will continue.



**Image 1: NZ Autotraps - AT220, aka 'Steam Punk'**

### 3.1.5 Rooks

The aerial rook survey was completed on 18-19 September 2018. The number of birds seems significantly lower than in previous years. Of the rookeries found, there were not a huge number of nests with eggs observed, indicating that the downward trend in breeding birds is continuing. Some ground checks will take place following the survey. We expect control to happen mid-October.

### 3.1.6 RHDV1 K5 Rabbit virus

The RHDV1 K5 strain of the current virus RHDV1 was released on 23 April at 31 locations across the region. Post night-count monitoring has indicated varied results, with 56% of sites showing a significant reduction, 29% of sites with more rabbits, and 15% no change in rabbit numbers. We plan to do some virus antibody blood sample testing at these sites in May-July 2019.

## 3.2 Land Management

One recent highlight was facilitating the signing of a MOU between South Wairarapa District Council, Greater Wellington, the Awhea-Opuawe Catchment Scheme and three local landowners in order to work together to stabilise an area of the Tukurimuri road at high risk of erosion. Staff have shown great leadership in bring these parties together for this agreement which will increase community resilience through roading access security.

### 3.2.1 Wellington Region Erosion Control Initiative (WRECI) Programme

A contract with MPI is now final that will add an additional \$0.5M from MPI's 1 billion trees funding streams to the 2018/19 WRECI programme. This additional funding, along with GW's and landowners' contributions, will expand the 2018/19 WRECI programme by nearly double from around \$1.1M to \$2.0M this year.

Staff are now currently preparing the WRECI funding bid for the next four year contract with MPI (2019-23). The total funding for the programme nationally has grown from \$8M from the previous four year period to over \$35M, which provides significant opportunity to develop the scale and scope of the WRECI programme. If this new application is successful, the WRECI programme is expected to grow, with support of additional MPI funding, from about \$1.1M in 2017/18 to over \$3.0M by 2023.

Landowners have recently been contacted to apply for WRECI programme poplar planting, conservation woodlots and native reversion projects for the 2019 planting season. It is anticipated that successful applications will be notified in November 2018 so that fencing and seedling ordering can be confirmed well in advance.



**Image 3: Manuka seedling planting on erosion prone land in the Eastern Wairarapa.**

**(a) One Billion Trees**

Part of the 2018/19 additional funding from MPI for WRECI included resources to fund a consultant to investigate 1 billion trees opportunities at a region wide scale. This piece of work, which is linked to the Regional Investment Plan, is intended to be completed over the next six months.

Greater Wellington staff have met recently with members of Kahungunu Incorporated and the Kahutia Accord project from Hawkes Bay to look at

partnership opportunities as part of the 1 Billion trees programme. The Kahutia Accord is a formal partnership between Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Inc and Hawkes Bay Regional Council with the aim to plant millions of trees on the 250,000 ha of erosion-prone land across the Hawkes Bay region. Discussions are at an early stage in our region about a similar model. These meetings have been optimistic in terms of opportunities for treating erosion prone land with a focus on Māori owned land in the region.

### 3.2.2 Akura Nursery

The nursery has supplied 25,000 poplar and willow poles for the WRECI programme during the 2018 winter works programme (refer to table below). This is a significant percentage of the total poles sold, which was 38,000.

It was a challenging year for the nursery with lots of demand for plants generated via the new Akura marketing campaign, interest from Forestry companies looking at meeting the standards within the NES-PF, Riparian programme and also the One Billion Trees programme.

Eco-sourcing of native seeds for propagation at Morgan’s Road Nursery in Blenheim is a limiting factor for an expanded programme. In order to supply more native plants for an increasing WRECI and Riparian programme, Morgan’s Road require 2-3 times more seed. An application through the WRECI four year bid has been proposed, which if successful would provide for additional eco-source seed collection resources.

Through the Ruamahanga Whaitua recommendations a new suite of rules will result in water allocation from the Waipoua River being completely stopped when a low river flows occur. Currently at low flow, the take is cut by 50%. This would have a profound impact on the nursery’s pole production due to the reliability on irrigation, particularly the young stool material that only has shallow root systems. GWRC and Masterton District Council staff are beginning to look at the Homebush waste water plant site as a potential new nursery site and this would involve using processed wastewater to irrigate land for nursery development. This may be a way of overcoming the potential decrease in pole supply resulting from limited water resource from the Waipoua River at Akura.

The winter works programme for 2018 is now complete, a summary of the nursery stock is provided below.

Activity for 2018	Numbers	Area (Ha)
Poplar and willow pole planting	25,000	417ha
Manuka seedlings	46,000	42ha
Reversion	NA	150ha
Native Seedlings	63,000	16ha
Exotic Seedlings	135,000	123ha

### 3.2.3 Farm Environment Plans (FEP) and contestable fund

#### (a) Expanding our FEPs in priority catchments

A focus of the FEP programme for the next 12 months is taking a more strategic approach to the targeting of farm plans in priority catchments. The priority catchments will primarily be driven from guidance in the proposed Natural Resource Plan and the Ruamahanga Whaitua Implementation Plan. Key catchment areas to focus on initially that are undeveloped in the programme are the Parkvale and Huangarua Catchments whilst maintaining engagement levels in other priority areas, namely Wairarapa Moana and Mangatarere catchments.

Coordinating our planned actions in MfE's At Risk Catchments will also be part of our strategic focus for implementing our contestable fund incentive programme.

#### (b) FEP contestable fund

Farm environment improvement projects that we have supported include:

- The planting of over 5000 native seedlings, more than half of which have been Manuka for riparian management.
- Excluding stock from a section of shoreline on Lake Wairarapa
- Supporting the water quality monitoring at a constructed wetland to measure the removal of nitrogen from farm drains.

A key project of the contestable fund currently is the coordinated release of Dung Beetles within targeted catchments within the region. Marketing to farmers is currently underway with an aim to have thirty farms signed up for the release period between January-March 2019. Contamination of pasture by dung reduces the amount of forage available for grazing, and has other economic, environmental, ecological and social effects, such as pollution of waterways. By introducing dung beetles that can deal with pastoral dung effectively there is an opportunity to help mitigate these risks to freshwater quality.

It is planned to have the majority of the Dung Beetles released in an area along the eastern lake shore of Wairarapa Moana as a partnership catchment with this project, however, a small number may be released outside of this area if required. To date, thirty-seven farmers have registered expressions of interest.

#### (c) Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour

There are now 8 large rural properties in the Porirua Harbour catchment signed up the Porirua Farm Environment plan programme. A campaign involving a pamphlet drop to all rural addresses (over 300) in the catchment has resulted in significantly more uptake and contact for land management services, particularly from lifestyle block owners. A total of 17 landowners undertook works for erosion control in 2017/18. Over 5000 seedlings were planted and over 800 poles planted on erosion prone land. There were an additional number

of landowners who received advice around land management activities to reduce their impact on waterways.

### 3.2.4 Riparian Programme

A marketing campaign to promote the Riparian programme regionally has commenced. This is intended to increase uptake amongst landowners. The focus will broaden to incorporate all landowners with Category 1 and 2 streams in the region. And if available, funding will be applied to non-scheduled sites. Including Category 2 and potentially non-scheduled streams will increase the scope of the programme significantly and there is evidence to suggest that these higher order streams have high potential for improving environmental effects. Other policy revisions to the Riparian Programme are also being developed to improve landowner uptake whilst ensuring delivery of programme objectives.

### 3.2.5 Catchment schemes

It is expected that these schemes will become a key point of consideration as community interest increases in a Whaitua/community catchment context. There is already interest in expanding scheme services to enable catchment management of freshwater management units, which is a step change in service level above the current level of minimal flood and erosion protection of assets and infrastructure.



**Image 4: Flood debris and erosion on a recent aerial reconnaissance flight of the Whareama Catchment Scheme**

### **3.3 Flood protection**

#### **3.3.1 Understanding Flood Risk**

##### **(a) Te Kāuru Floodplain Management Plan**

Public engagement on drafts of 'Volume 1: Background and Overview' and 'Volume 2: Location Specific Values, Issues and Responses' of Te Kāuru ran from 16 July 2018 to 16 September 2018. Feedback on Volume 3 will be sought in late 2018/early 2019.

The engagement took a number of forms, including:

- 22 small group discussions, called 'coffee groups', which were hosted by members of the community for riverside landowners
- Stalls at the Masterton and Carterton Farmers Markets
- Three drop-in centres; one in Gladstone, one in Carterton and one in Masterton
- A district wide brochure drop to Masterton and a brochure drop to those in the Te Kāuru catchment in the Carterton district
- Letters sent to riverside landowners
- Information in the local papers
- Social media campaigns
- Paid radio interviews with Chair of the Te Kāuru Subcommittee Bob Francis and Councillor Adrienne Staples
- Information on the Te Kāuru website

Overall, approximately 400 people were engaged with at various events, with many more reached through the external publications such as social media, the website and radio interviews.

The project team will work with the Te Kāuru Subcommittee to develop work-streams coming out of the community feedback. The immediate work-streams identified include:

- Buffer benefit assessment
- Pest plant plan
- Analysis of buffers (existing and proposed)
- Buffer implementation plan
- Design line review

- More clarity regarding the different management approach to the Eastern and Western Rivers

Draft flood maps for the Waipoua River flood hazard have been developed through an agreed process between MDC and GWRC. Options development for the Masterton reach of the Waipoua River is underway, assisted by consultants WSP Opus. The draft flood maps are intended to be publicly released via a joint MDC/GWRC process at the beginning of November. Officers will provide a verbal update on this process to the Environment Committee at the October meeting.

(b) Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan

The Project Team has decided to recommend a preferred stop banking option for Greytown. This option is referred to as the “inland” option and has stopbanks close to Greytown and set back from the Waiohine River. This is an important milestone. In narrowing down from three options to one, the Project Team has also recommended:

- Not to extend the existing (upstream) Saywells stopbank but rather to use vegetation to manage scour issues at that location; and
- Not to retreat an existing stopbank on the inside of Fullers Bend because it could not be shown to represent value for money, or to avoid the need for rock protection on the outside of the bend.

Now that we have more direction for the structural option, the next priorities for the Project Team will be:

1. Pulling information together on key issues such as gravel extraction, fine sediment, natural character and river channel/buffer sizes, and exploring these themes with GWRC officers; and
2. Developing the “living plan”, to document recommendations that will provide direction for how the river is managed in the future; and
3. Refining the preferred structural option and testing it with the community.

### 3.3.2 Implementation

(a) RiverLink

(i) Preliminary Design

Preliminary design for RiverLink has been approved by Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council. The project has now commenced to its detail design and statutory approvals stage.

(ii) Statutory approvals

Procurement specialists have been engaged to prepare and run the tender process for preparation of the statutory approvals process required for RiverLink. This is being designed in a way that will allow space for the NZTA to join the process once their re-evaluation is complete.

(iii) **Melling Transport Improvements Re-evaluation**

The New Zealand Transport Agency continue to work through their project re-evaluations and are on track to consider the Melling Transport Improvements at their board meeting at the end of the year.

(iv) **Geotechnical Investigations**

The geotechnical investigations have been delayed due to resolution of details around methodology. The delay does not impact on the project programme. We anticipate that these methodology issues, relating to ongoing monitoring of and protection of the aquifer, will be resolved within the next few weeks enabling work to commence.

(v) **Communications and Engagement**

RiverLink will be at the Hutt City Council Highlight Festival over Labour weekend. The installation has been designed to be a conversation starter about the pressures of urban development on the natural environment, and it highlights the contrast between the future urban form and the more natural river environment. Information about the Waitohu process will share the space and conversation.

RiverLink ran its first 'ramble' event, a small group of local residents joined project leads to walk around the site and discuss the project. The 'ramble' concept is an open offer to community groups to have a guided tour of the project by one or more of the project team and aims to respond to particular areas of interest that communities may have.

RiverLink featured at a number of conference and technical interest group events throughout spring. These included the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australasia (IPWEA) and the Resource Law Management Association Conference 2018. Follow up invitations for RiverLink to be featured at future conferences run by these organisations have been received for 2019.

(b) **Waitohu Stream**

The Waitohu Stream (Otaki) and Convent Road deflector bund project design and land entry is progressing. This project seeks to address the frequent flooding that covers Convent Road and adjacent properties. The result of this work will be a reduction in damages and nuisance caused by this small scale but frequent event. We are working closely with Nga Hapu o Otaki on this project and particularly to facilitate consultation with various landowners along the stream and in the wider community.

(c) **Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme**

Work has commenced to prepare the next 10 year work programme for the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. The current work programme ends in 2021.

### 3.3.3 Operations Delivery

#### (a) Wairarapa Operations

Works in the Wairarapa areas have focused on planting, layering, gravel groyne construction and maintenance, beach vegetation clearing and gravel extraction from problem beaches.



**Waingawa River planting**



**Waingawa River gravel groynes constructed to protect against erosion into the buffer area of native trees.**

The field teams continue to work closely with our Environmental-Science team to monitor and protect shorebird nesting sites this season. The teams have reported a number of successful hatchings of Banded Dotterels from the monitored nesting sites.



**Waingawa River Banded Dotterel nest (eggs very hard to distinguish from the rocks)**

**(b) Western Operations**

In the Hutt River willow tethering has been completed upstream of the Kennedy Good Bridge and willow protection work has been completed at Totara Park and Belmont. Rock rip rap delivery has commenced in preparation for erosion repair work at Gibbons Street and sightline clearance is underway for the 5-yearly Hutt River survey that will be completed in early 2019.



**Hutt River Totara Park Edge Protection Work**



**Hutt River willow tethering Kennedy Good Bridge**

The Otaki River annual walkover was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and attracted over 230 participants. Once again this proved to be a popular event and attracted a wide cross section of the Kapiti community including the Friends of the Otaki River, Council representatives, iwi, interest groups and members of the local community.

A major focus for the Kapiti team continues to be the liaising and co-ordination of the Peka Peka to Otaki (PP2O) expressway works with Fletchers Construction. Works have commenced on piling on the northern side for the new Otaki Bridge with significant changes to vehicle and pedestrian access routes around the worksite and quarry operations.



**Otaki Bridge Construction  
1<sup>st</sup> Bridge Beams**



**Otaki River Walkover 21<sup>st</sup> September**

### **3.4 Biodiversity**

#### **3.4.1 Key Native Ecosystem Programme**

OSPRI completed an aerial 1080 operation in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo and Pakuratahi KNE sites, which will significantly reduce possum and rat populations as the bird breeding season begins.

#### **3.4.2 Wetland Programme**

45 landowners with wetlands are now signed up to the Wetland Programme (a total of 60 wetlands as some have more than one on their property). 27 of these wetland sites have approved Wetland Restoration Management Plans.

#### **3.4.3 Biodiversity Advice**

In response to requirements in the Regional Policy Statement, territorial authorities are required to identify and protect areas of high biodiversity value within their districts including on private land. These are frequently referred to as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs). Identifying such areas on private land can be contentious as some restrictions on certain activities may result. Porirua City and Hutt City have commenced consultation with their communities over proposed SNA programmes and Upper Hutt will do so shortly.

Staff have been considering how to best to support territorial authorities and their communities through these processes. For example, staff have raised the issue at the Regional Planning Managers' Group and discussed a coordinated approach across councils to engaging with landowners about any proposed SNAs on their land.

In addition, an information and discussion session will be held for Hutt-based GW staff to support their understanding of these policy processes as they frequently interact with affected landowners in the course of their work.

#### **3.4.4 Biodiversity Advocacy**

Staff participated in "Pest Feast" over two Sundays during Conservation Week. The event was led by DOC and held at the Harbourside Market in Wellington City. Food trucks sold a variety of dishes containing pest animal and plant ingredients, and the combined DOC, Predator Free Wellington and GW stall interacted with the public, providing them with information about managing pests in their backyards.



Figure 1. GW staff interacting with the public at the Pest Feast event during Conservation week

#### 3.4.5 Collaborative Restoration: Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Project

The Wairarapa Moana communications strategy has been adopted by the project's Governance Group and a project team of staff from GW, DOC, Ngāti Kahangungu and a communications contractor has been established to implement the strategy.

### 4. Environment Management

#### 4.1 Harbours

The Harbourmaster attended the South Island Harbormasters' meeting, discussion covered navigation safety bylaws; consistency, enforcement, changes and reviews, cruise ship operations, summer education campaigns and issues around VHF radio. Maritime NZ shared updates following their review and their planned compliance work.

On Saturday 22 September we carried out a "Check Your Boat" day in conjunction with Boat City at Kāpiti. Together we made safety checks on the boats, their safety equipment and promoted key safety messages with the boat owners. Numbers were less than we wanted however all feedback was positive and Boat City is keen to repeat this next season and increase the numbers. We have taken the positive aspects of this to modify our plans for similar work in other areas and increase participation.



Contractors looked at the steelwork on two of our lighthouses to plan for maintenance work over the summer.

The summer cruise ship season has begun with ships visiting on 2 & 3 October. The new ship *Majestic Princess* made her first visit to Wellington. She is second largest of the regular cruise ships and will be a regular visitor this season. Standard advice was provided to the agents for the various cruise ships regarding permits for work while in Wellington, requests can include gas cutting and welding, hull painting and drone flying among others. While some of these are normal requests on other ships there are various factors that make them higher risk and more challenging on cruise ships.

Recently we had a 180m long container ship approaching the port, with a Pilot on board, that lost power just over one nautical mile from the harbour entrance. The Pilot started the ship turning away from the entrance as it lost speed. The ship's crew were able to restore power, carry out engine tests, and resume their approach to the harbour. The weather was calm at the time however a strong southerly change was forecast, this could have pushed the ship ashore. There was a private ocean going tug in port that had crew on board (it usually doesn't) that would have been able to assist within about two hours if required; our harbour tugs are not suited to this type of towing work. Grounding at the entrance is the highest risk in our risk assessment.

We had the Greenpeace sail assisted ship *Rainbow Warrior* in Wellington for several days and after some filming work of Taranaki spent a day at anchor off Porirua Harbour. Porirua Harbour does not have any pilotage requirements and so the Deputy Harbourmaster met with the Captain and discussed his passage plan in and out of the Harbour before the ship was approved to go in there.



Photo by V.H. Young

The Harbourmaster attended opening days at several of the regions yacht clubs. It's good to be involved in these events as a way to stay in contact with recreational harbour users.

In the last month we have had about 70 visitors through our Harbour Radio station at Beacon Hill, such as boating clubs, coastguard crews and other water related groups. Our staff explained the purpose and operation of the station and we always receive very good feedback. This can also help recreational boat users understand what we do and break down barriers to them communicating with the station.



12 October was the start of Safer Boating week was kicked off with the annual jump off Queens Wharf. The Harbourmaster joined other agencies including Maritime NZ, Ministry of Transport, NZ Search and Rescue Council, Coastguard and others who took the plunge. The main message was check your lifejacket and ensure it is suitable, and emphasizing the need for waterproof communication.

## **4.2 Environmental Regulation**

### **4.2.1 Regional bore security investigation**

Griffiths Drilling provided their Kāpiti Wells Inspection Report in the beginning of September, which identified 10 bores on the Kāpiti Coast requiring remedial works. Letters are going out to the respective landowners this week informing them that they need to get this work done. GWRC officers will be following up with the landowners before Christmas to ensure the completion of the works. The Wairarapa investigation is continuing. Site visits have commenced and will determine which bores require a physical inspection by a specialist drilling contractor.

The drillers' workshop held by Environmental Regulation and Science staff in early September was a worthwhile exercise. The workshop allowed for good discussion in particular on bore security after the bore has been drilled and when property ownership changes hands. It also provided a great venue to talk openly and enable a better understanding between GWRC staff and the well drilling industry.

### **4.2.2 Porirua Wastewater Collaborative Pilot Project**

The Porirua Wastewater Collaborative Pilot Project (PPP) is continuing its focus on finalising the engagement and communications material for a 'soft' launch out to the public for feedback. This will be via social media and direct to community groups initially, with an acknowledgment that all PPP parties involved will be adaptive and ready to respond to however the public wishes to interact with us.

Wellington Water and their technical experts are preparing a number of assessments on the short-list of options for the network and plant outfall, and GW officers are providing feedback where relevant. The public feedback and technical reports will feed into a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) workshop set down for January 2019. The MCA workshop will involve all the PPP parties and technical experts to decide on a preferred option to carry through to the detailed design, assessment and consenting phase.

### **4.2.3 Featherston Wastewater Treatment Plant re-consenting**

South Wairarapa District Council's (SWDC) applications to re-consent Featherston wastewater discharges were notified in May, and a total of 159 submissions were received of which 152 were opposed.

Discussions are continuing between GW and SWDC project teams over key technical land and water discharge matters, and Regional Plan policy direction issues which need to be resolved.

At this stage the process is following the directions issued by the Independent Commissioners covering this process and the revised timetable.

The hearing itself is still set down to commence on 18 March 2019.

#### 4.2.4 Roads of National Significance (RoNS) Projects

*Transmission Gully (TG) and Porirua Link Roads (PLR):* Dry weather has assisted work progress on site. A revised approach to earthworks open areas decision making was implemented at the end of September, and the first 3 month period of earthworks open areas approved.

Concerns have been raised by Whitby residents regarding effects of the PLR project on Whitby Lakes. There are a number of potential sediment sources in the catchment that may have contributed to the discoloration, the PLR project being one of these. Site compliance auditing of the PLR project (and TG) will continue on a weekly basis and any non-compliance issues will be addressed as needed.

*Peka Peka to Otaki:* Works are progressing on site across the length of the project. SSEMP approvals and ancillary consenting is ongoing, and the site has been audited at least fortnightly, and this will likely become weekly as the works area extends.

#### 4.2.5 Significant Incident Response and Enforcement

Since the last period we have issued a number of Infringement Notices, most significantly to the CPB HEB Joint Venture and their contractor on the Transmission Gully Project (noted on previous report). These related to discharges of sediment from a number of separate areas of site. Follow up is being managed through the RoNS team.

The incident response team were involved in a multi-agency response to concerns, from a Kindergarten, around asbestos from a neighbouring demolition site in Karori. In conjunction with contractors and Wellington City Council, the situation was resolved to ensure the risk to the environment and public health was minimised.

We have one live case before the courts, a prosecution for works in the bed of a river. This is still waiting to proceed to trial.

### 4.3 Environmental Science

#### 4.3.1 SoilMAPPING

Smapping of the soils in Te Awarua-o-Porirua whitua has been completed. Smap provides detailed information about soil types and their attributes. This data can be used by Land Management officers and modelling projects to aid land management decisions. A GIS layer and associated data has been supplied by Landcare Research.

#### 4.3.2 Climate Change Interactive Map

An online interactive map that shows the projected future of climate change in the region until 2100 has been launched. With more than 500 layers of data, the tool provides an 'on the spot' assessment of climate change for 21 climate variables, including drought potential, soil moisture, rainfall, temperature and wind thresholds. An article in the Wairarapa Times Age promoted the 'world-class tool'.

#### 4.3.3 Ruamāhanga Wetlands

The first wetland health annual report has been produced. The report outlines the health status of 30 wetlands in the Ruamāhanga whaitua. It was found that the majority of wetlands were in good condition, but around 30% of sites were recorded as being in moderate condition. It was of interest that a clear trend between lack of stock exclusion and higher soil bulk density (compaction) was found, while unfenced wetlands also tended to have lower organic matter.

#### 4.3.4 PNRP Commissioners Visit Kaiwharawhara Estuary

In early October, the PNRP hearing commissioners got to visit the Kaiwharawhara estuary. It is listed as a significant site under the PNRP. Our freshwater scientists, Mark Heath and Evan Harrison, were on hand to explain the different environmental values provided by the estuary and the current condition of the Kaiwharawhara catchment.

#### 4.3.5 Hutt River Toxic Algal Report

Cawthron have just released a report on 'Anatoxins and bacterial communities associated with *Phormidium*-dominated mats in the Hutt River, Wellington'. Key findings show that samples from Silverstream had the highest toxin concentration measure in NZ to date (!), that algal blooms occurred in good quality water and those mats supported diverse bacterial communities.

#### 4.3.6 Better Burning Initiative

A new webpage has been created to support "better burning" practices to reduce wood smoke emissions from home fires <http://www.gw.govt.nz/better-burning/>. To help promote the message we are holding a "win a winter's worth of firewood" competition at the Wairarapa A&P show in late October.

#### 4.3.7 Citizen Science Video Collaboration

NIWA and GWRC staff were out and about last week in Kaiwharawhara and Waiwhetu streams, filming how-to-videos of the stream health monitoring and assessment kits (SHMAK). The videos are due to be launched at the upcoming New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society conference in December.

### 4.4 Environmental Policy

#### 4.4.1 The Government's Essential Freshwater announcement

##### (a) Objectives

The *Essential Freshwater* work programme has three main objectives:

1. Stopping further degradation and loss – taking a series of actions now to stop the state of our freshwater resources, waterways and ecosystems getting worse and to start making immediate improvements so that water quality is materially improving within five years.
2. Reversing past damage – promoting restoration activity to bring our freshwater resources, waterways and ecosystems to a healthy state within a generation, including through a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and other legal instruments.
3. Addressing water allocation issues – working to achieve efficient and fair allocation of freshwater and nutrient discharges, having regard to all interests including Māori, and existing and potential new users.

##### (b) Principles

The Government has agreed to the following principles, to apply across the *Essential Freshwater* work programme:

- Ensure central government plays an effective leadership role on freshwater issues, while retaining appropriate decision-making at local government level.
- Establish policies and solutions that are enduring; which means they need to be science-based, reflect mātauranga Māori, be predictable, understood by the public, and underpinned by effective regulation and enforcement.
- Work with landowners, water users, Māori, communities, and local government to this end.
- Provide for flexibility and adaptability so that as knowledge and technology evolve and the climate changes, policy settings and rules can adapt.
- Promote an integrated approach to freshwater management, within catchments, across issues, and with the marine and coastal environment.
- Promote sound environmental outcomes, and in doing so seek to optimise social, cultural, economic development, and national identity outcomes.
- Address the rights and interests of Māori in freshwater and the development aspirations of owners of Māori freehold land, consistent with the Crown's Treaty obligations.
- Provide for intergenerational equity.
- Ensure the benefits of commercial water use are not captured solely by existing users, but that potential new users can access water so that water is applied to higher value uses with lower environmental impacts.

(c) **Iwi interests**

Cabinet has noted that there is a building sense among Māori that there is no clear 'path ahead' for the Crown's engagement with Māori and addressing Māori rights and interests in fresh water.

The Government sees Māori aspirations with respect to freshwater broadly as:

- Improving water quality and the health of ecosystems and waterways: this was consistently identified as the most important and pressing issue.
- Governance/management/decision-making: Māori want to be involved in freshwater decision-making, and to have the capacity, capability and resources to do so effectively.

- Recognition: ensuring there is formal recognition of iwi/hapū relationships with particular freshwater bodies.
- Economic development: Māori want to be able to access and use water resources (i.e. water takes and discharge rights) to realise and express their economic and development interests (although this remains within the context of a holistic view of Te Mana o te Wai).

(This summary is based on feedback and reporting from more than 100 hui on freshwater run by the Iwi Leaders Group across New Zealand throughout 2014-15.)

While considerable progress has been made on governance/decision-making, and in terms of recognition, the Government believes more work is needed to improve water quality and ecosystem health, and to provide for fair access to freshwater resources to allow for the development of underdeveloped land.

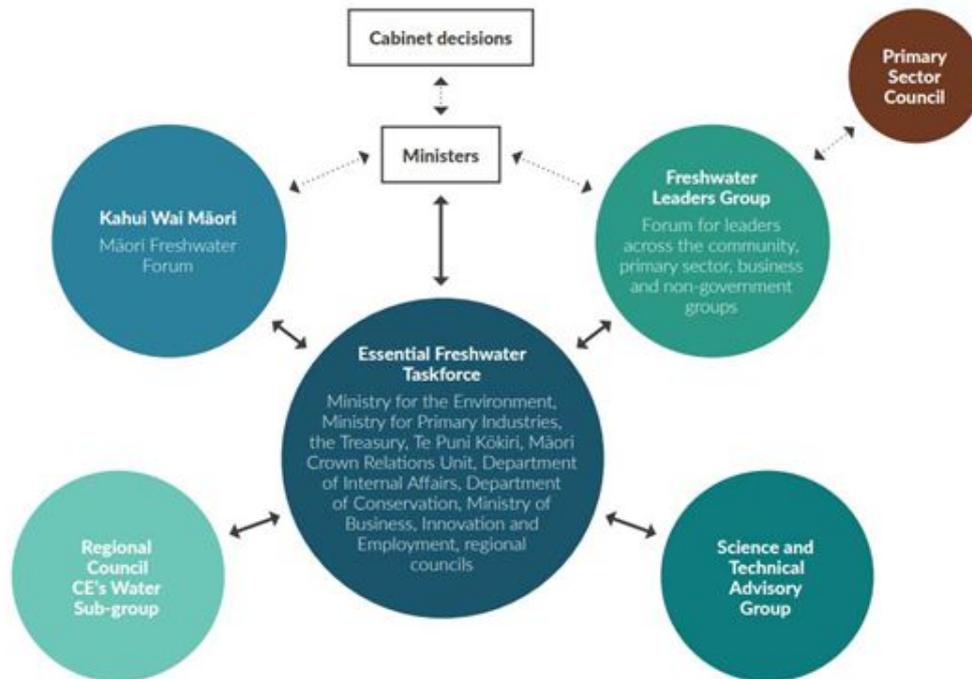
Government will adopt a phased approach to engagement with Māori across all freshwater issues, starting with a focus on water quality rather than water allocation and addressing key information gaps. The government will then engage on broad policy parameters regarding Māori desires for access to freshwater resources for economic development.

The Government's preference is to find a regulatory mechanism to more equitably share resources over time, rather than focus on ownership.

The Crown will work with Māori and regional government to consider how, on a catchment-by-catchment basis, freshwater resources can be accessed fairly to achieve the development of underdeveloped land, based on the following principles:

- The need to gather key catchment-level information on water-related Māori land development opportunities and the current situation in those catchments in terms of water quality, water takes, and existing capital investments;
- Any change to existing allocation method is achieved in a way and at a pace that takes into account the interests of existing users and the public interest in the optimal use of the resource;
- The need to ensure solutions for water meet sustainable limits for swimmability, ecological health, and human health, being the values captured by Te Mana o Te Wai.

Where decisions are made at the local level (for regions or specific catchments) the Government's expectation is that local government will involve iwi, hapū and whānau in those decision-making processes.



### Working with regional councils

The Government is committed to working inclusively to find solutions that are enduring and practical. To tackle the challenging issues ahead, the Government plans to bring experts from all sides together.

Regional councils are vital partners in improving freshwater quality, because of their links to local communities and their statutory role. Councils would continue to play a key role in any future freshwater management system, and it is important they have the capability, competency, and funding to undertake their functions effectively.

The Government will continue to work with regional councils, and other councils, to ensure options are practical and easy to implement. The regional chief executives' freshwater sub-group will be involved in testing policy options before central government decision-making.

Government also intends to more effectively monitor the performance of councils and the quality of their systems and decision-making.

A key issue is the pace, consistency and practice that councils are applying when implementing the Freshwater NPS. Government is concerned that implementation is highly variable across councils and timeframes are too long in many cases. Government would like to see a regulatory framework that:

- Accelerates timeframes for getting plans and new regulatory controls in place, especially those relating to water quality;
- Reflects the public good aspects of freshwater management;
- Avoids each proposed plan being challenged through the courts over essentially the same matters, wasting time and money;

- Addresses the rights and interests of Māori including the development aspirations of owners of Māori freehold land; and
- Allows much faster adjustments of rules in future in response to new science and technology.

The Government plans to support council RMA implementation by identifying exemplary councils across varying aspects of good practice in water regulation and management, using those exemplars as a guide, and considering what further national direction on implementation may be appropriate. We will also develop good management principles to support water-sensitive urban design.

### Essential Freshwater work programme

<p>At-risk catchments</p>	<p>Identify at-risk catchments, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the need for regulatory intervention</li> <li>• Target erosion risk for input into the One Billion Trees programme and other funds</li> <li>• Identify existing restoration projects that could be scaled for increased impact</li> <li>• Support voluntary action by councils, Māori, NGOs, other community groups, and industry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next step:</b></p> <p>Report to Government, with an overview of at-risk catchments and recommendations on potential interventions, by the end of 2018.</p>
<p>National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (Freshwater NPS)</p>	<p>A revised Freshwater NPS will be based on the principles proposed by the 2010 Sheppard Inquiry.</p> <p>It may adjust timeframes for implementation, provide greater direction on how to set limits on resource use, and provide better protection of wetlands and estuaries.</p> <p>Changes to the Freshwater NPS may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to better provide for ecosystem health</li> <li>• New attributes – sediment, copper and zinc, dissolved oxygen</li> <li>• Clarifying the direction around how to set effective limits</li> <li>• Better protection for wetlands and sensitive downstream environments (e.g., estuaries)</li> <li>• Policy around at-risk catchments</li> <li>• Resolving exceptions to national bottom lines</li> <li>• Other changes proposed by LAWF and other groups.</li> </ul> <p>The Science and Technical Advisory Group (which includes regional council representatives) will play an important role in testing and advising on scientific aspects of the Freshwater NPS, such as new attributes,</p>

	<p>national bottom lines, and alternative approaches.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <p>Options will be discussed with the advisory network (Kahui Wai Māori, Freshwater Leaders Group, and the Science and Technical Advisory Group) over the next six months.</p> <p>Public consultation will be held in 2019.</p> <p>The amended Freshwater NPS will be in force in 2020.</p>
<p>National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Management (Freshwater NES)</p>	<p>A National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Management (Freshwater NES) will provide clear and specific direction on resource use, in particular where rapid action is required, for example, in at-risk catchments.</p> <p>A Freshwater NES is a potential mechanism for prohibiting activities or including rules that restrict activities such as the draining of wetlands or piping of urban streams.</p> <p>Certain activities such as intensive winter grazing, hill country cropping, and feedlots are expected to be regulated under a Freshwater NES.</p> <p>A new Freshwater NES may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventing further loss of wetlands and urban streams</li> <li>• Mechanisms for managing intensification, including targeting at-risk catchments</li> <li>• Direction around the use of farm environment plans and good management practices such as</li> <li>• Stock exclusion and riparian management</li> <li>• Rules to control activities such as intensive winter grazing, hill country cropping, and feedlots</li> <li>• Direction on nutrient allocation</li> <li>• Direction for the review of existing consents</li> <li>• A default regime for ecological flow and levels where none are set, and how minimum flows apply to existing consents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <p>Options will be discussed with the advisory network over the next six months. Other national direction will also be considered as a way to achieve the policies.</p> <p>Public consultation will be held in 2019.</p> <p>The Freshwater NES will be in force in 2020.</p>

<p>Resource Management Act (RMA) amendments</p>	<p>Amendments in the short term to reduce complexity, improve certainty, and improve public participation that will have an impact beyond water management.</p> <p>This will better enable regional councils to review consents, to more quickly implement water quality and quantity limits as required in the Freshwater NPS. The amendments will also strengthen enforcement tools for improving environmental compliance.</p> <p>2018 RMA Bill – a narrow range of amendments.</p> <p>Second phase; a more comprehensive review of the resource management system.</p> <p><b>Next step:</b></p> <p>Amendment Bill due to be introduced to Parliament late 2018 or early 2019.</p>
<p>Allocation of freshwater resources</p>	<p>To include allocation of both takes and discharges.</p> <p>Contaminant discharges must be restricted in many catchments. Every catchment has a different mix of land use and soil types, and so will have a different limit on the amount of contaminants that can be discharged without damaging the health of the waterway.</p> <p>The challenge is to find a way to fairly and efficiently allocate discharges among resource users (properties and point-source dischargers such as wastewater treatment plants) taking into account current land use and potential future development.</p> <p>The initial focus is on nitrogen, because there is already some ability to measure, model or monitor nitrogen discharges at a property level.</p> <p>The Land and Water Forum discussed how to allocate discharge rights amongst competing land users in catchments at or beyond the limit of environmental sustainability. However, they could not resolve the tension between existing users and owners of underdeveloped land, including Māori.</p> <p>The Government intends to work collaboratively with Kahui Wai Māori and the Freshwater Leaders Group, and other interested parties, to explore options for a fair and efficient allocation system.</p> <p>The authority to take and use water is also an important area where Māori rights and interests must be recognised, together with fairness to existing users (including households), economic development, and efficiency.</p> <p>Gathering information to understand catchment-level water quality issues and land (especially Māori land) development constraints.</p> <p>Developing options on discharge allocation and engaging with stakeholders.</p> <p>Developing options on water take allocation and engaging with stakeholders.</p>

	<p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <p>Issues and options for allocation of discharges will be discussed and consulted on through 2019 and 2020.</p> <p>Options on water take allocation will be developed in 2019/2020.</p>
<p>Future framework</p>	<p>There are systemic failures and gaps across the current freshwater management system, many of which will require some time to work through. Fundamental governance, decision-making and planning issues may extend beyond freshwater management to the resource management and planning framework as a whole, and thus require broader legislative change.</p> <p>The policy framework the Government is working towards is expected to have the following major elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set freshwater objectives and limits catchment-by-catchment and develop integrated catchment management plans, with regional councils continuing to give effect to national policy statements and national environmental standards</li> <li>• Ensure good practice is applied everywhere – farms, forests, urban development, urban discharges (point sources of pollutants), and water infrastructure</li> <li>• Drive more fundamental change where on-going good practice will not be enough</li> <li>• Better target support from government to help landowners and others change</li> <li>• Invest in developing and disseminating solutions</li> <li>• Continuously improve the accuracy of monitoring, modelling and measurement of discharges</li> <li>• Support councils to undertake their roles, and systematically monitor their and the system's performance.</li> <li>• A reformed planning process would allow councils to plan, set and adjust limits/outcomes and implement decisions far more quickly, and with less litigation and better incentives for collaboration than the current system.</li> <li>• Extend good practice across farms, forests, and urban water management.</li> <li>• Target investment in solutions and in advice and tools to support decision-making.</li> <li>• Improved and nationally-consistent measurement and monitoring.</li> <li>• Support councils to undertake their roles.</li> </ul>

## Transition

In some places the ongoing application of good practice will not be enough to achieve the required improvements in water quality, nor will it enable fair allocation to all users including Māori. In those places more fundamental change will be needed, for example, stopping some commercial activities, land-use change, and introduction of 'game-changing' technology or management systems.

The options for driving this change may be a mix of regulatory restrictions and economic drivers such as pollution charges or trading regimes.

To successfully manage the necessary changes, it will be essential to involve those who may be affected in developing the options. This will happen initially through discussions with the advisory network in advance of wider discussion.

Sustainable land use will not happen overnight. There will need to be a transition period, which the Government will support fairly and effectively through our programmes in the areas of agriculture, climate change, afforestation, freshwater and biodiversity.

This must be integrated and aligned with other changes intended to improve the sustainability of land and water. The principles that would be applied in the transition to the future freshwater policy framework would be:

- Prioritise and target effort to halt further decline, including of at-risk catchments;
- Provide time for an orderly transition for landowners, but minimise the time it takes to set policy;
- Clearly signal a pathway for how tightening requirements will apply over time;
- Front-load investment in finding, commercialising and disseminating solutions;
- Support resource users with practical and skilled advice and decision-making tools;
- Work in partnerships, especially with Māori and sector groups;
- Proactively seek commercial benefits from improving performance/system changes.

## Related work

- Establishing a Compliance Oversight Unit to improve the consistency, effectiveness and transparency of council enforcement of Resource Management Act rules and decisions – particularly in relation to freshwater. It is anticipated to be fully operational by January 2019.
- The Three Waters Review, critical to improving water quality affected by urban and rural communities – being led by the Department of Internal Affairs.
- Drinking water and the Government's response to the Inquiry into Havelock North Drinking Water – being led jointly by the Department of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

- The Department of Conservation's current programme for protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and species.
- The Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund will provide \$40 million a year for farmers and growers to apply for investment in a greater range of projects.
- Tools and support to lift the environmental and economic performance of New Zealand's primary industries (see Cabinet paper: Aligning land-based sector work programmes for more details).
- The One Billion Trees Programme which provides opportunities to also deliver significant water quality improvements.
- Climate change policy – especially as it relates to agriculture and forestry.
- Regional economic development – being led jointly by the Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.
- Investment in science and technology.
- The Government's response to the report of the Tax Working Group on the role of the tax system in delivering positive environmental and ecological outcomes.
- The Whenua Māori Programme, seeking to sustainably develop Māori freehold land.

Work is also underway on good management principles for councils, developers and others in managing urban water and development.

#### **4.5 Regional Council input into city and district council planning**

Greater Wellington Regional Council's input into the statutory resource management processes of territorial authorities in the region for the period from 6 September 2018 to 17 October 2018 is appended as [Attachment 1](#).

### **5. Parks**

Condition inspections are complete for tracks, structures and buildings. The result is an improved average rating for tracks and a slight decline for both structures and buildings, which is expected as the assets age. These inspections are part of a larger programme also involving fences, roads and park furniture.

The OSPRI Northern Remutaka Aerial operation was completed on 19-20 September including most of Pakuratahi East forest and the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Catchment. Public awareness of the operation was fairly high given the general news profile of anti-1080 protesting.

Staff at Wainuiomata Recreation Area did see protestors around the park entrance, asking one group who had gone up to the Treatment Plant to leave. There was also an incident with a contractor at the Upper Hutt Depot. GW staff were briefed to not engage in conversations around 1080 and to ring the Police if they felt threatened.

The Parks team spent a day with the Optimus Project team, running through 'a day in the life of Parks'. Various Rangers presented various real-life asset management processes to demonstrate how we're currently working, as well as highlighting improvements that the new ERP system may be able to assist in delivering.

Remote controlled mowers are currently being reassessed as a means of reducing the physical workload on the assets maintenance team, and improve general health and safety. The mower will be trialled using a local contractor.

## **5.1 Parks planning**

Following the early public engagement phase of the Regional Parks Network Plan review, a series of internal workshops have been taking place to explore issues and opportunities raised by the community during consultation in more detail. A workshop with councillors is planned in December.

## **5.2 Park Projects**

### **5.2.1 Pakuratahi Forest**

Martins #1 bridge has been replaced, with the concrete replacement being craned into place. Safety barriers are being installed, which will bring this structure up to current building code. The new bridge, located on the Station Drive section of the Remutaka Cycle Trail will be open shortly.



Preparations are underway to finalise the design for the new 2 unit accessible toilet building at Tunnel Gully's Gums carpark. Construction is scheduled to get underway this summer.

The historic Howe Truss Bridge over the Pakuratahi River has been inspected by engineers. Core testing will occur this year. Some of the main timber

members may be replaced depending on results. The Ladle Bend Bridge, however, has been cleared and is in 'moderate' condition.

### 5.2.2 Kaitoke Regional Park

Engineering design work is underway for the cable (swing) bridge replacement at Pakuratahi Forks. Rangers are looking to integrate emblematic images into the new bridges' timberwork. The new structure is programmed in for construction over the late summer/autumn period when disruption to park users can be minimised. The new bridge will have larger overall capacity as well as being wider, less steep and will enable access for a broader range of users (including people with limited mobility).

Kaitoke has had a long association with the Department of Corrections and community workers can be an invaluable source of labour if they are well supervised. The current relationship with Corrections staff is very good and over the month of August community workers did 22 hours of bark mulching, weeding and filling potholes at Te Marua.

### 5.2.3 East Harbour Regional Park

Contractors are on-site and drilling foundations for the new replacement vehicle bridge at Baring Head. The expected timeframe for completion has shortened to before Christmas 2018.



#### 5.2.4 Baring Head Lighthouse work

The next phase of work has been completed in partnership with Naylor Love, who handles the management of the contractors on-site. We have had the remaining asbestos (e.g. roofs) removed from the two houses and the outbuildings and new colour steel roofs installed. Minor exterior building works have also been completed on the houses to get them ready for stripping and painting in February 2019.

The funding for this work was obtained by the Friends of Baring Head from the Wellington Community Trust (\$150,000). The Friends have also been successful in obtaining a further \$36,000 from the Stout Trust for a fire suppression system for the buildings.





#### 5.2.5 Million Metres – Wainuiomata River

The first planting season for Million Metres is complete with partner staff from Green Cabs and Garage Project coming out for planting days at Baring Head along the Wainuiomata River.

This year our budget was \$4,500 and next year we are aiming for \$46,750, which is a big step up. To date the crowd funding total is already over \$17,000. These projects tap into valuable funding sources and require relatively little GW staff input to make it all happen, a “win-win-win” for biodiversity, the community and the park.



### 5.3 Battle Hill

An action plan has been developed for retirement of a 1.6ha area near the summit of Battle Hill, to support the track upgrade and extend the Bush Reserve. This steep and marginal land will be fenced off and planted with natives, protecting a better aligned track from stock and providing for easier maintenance access. The old bush reserve fences, which are in a poor condition, will be removed.



Kiwispan have made good progress with construction of the new RDA arena. With the red side cladding going up, the full presence of the shed on the park is now becoming clear. That said measures such as the preservation of the totara trees and site excavation works have helped to minimise its dominance of the area.



Work on Transmission Gully work has changed tack as the haul road next to the motorway is filled in for earthworks and the main road is now the access way. Mitigation works are now being implemented, with around 800 poplars going in along the buffer zone east of the Gas Line Ridge.



#### **5.4 Queen Elizabeth Park**

Tender documentation is being prepared for the planned road, carpark and amenity area redevelopment at the Mackays Crossing entrance area. Construction may begin as early as Christmas this year.

The new workshop is up and running, and the old workshop has been repurposed as the trapping and sign shed. This will ensure that the volunteers who look after trapping on the park have a dedicated workshop space for trap storage, repair etc.

Now that the planting programme is complete, the nursery volunteers have started laying the new weed cloth in the bays. This is expected to dramatically reduce weed infestations of seedlings.

#### **5.5 Belmont Regional Park**

CPB HEB have been exerting a considerable planting effort, and seeking extra sites for surplus plant material. This has proved a bonus for GWRC, as we see more areas planted than expected. The most notable example has been 70,000 Manuka seedlings planted in the upper Cannons Creek catchment, which was retired from grazing several years ago.

#### **5.6 Whitiareia Park**

Through development of the Whitiareia Park Management Plan, the Park Board approved installation of a gate at Kaitawa Point, to close vehicle access to the bay beyond. This will help reduce vandalism and rubbish dumping and enable protection of the coastal ecosystem. Following some delays to “socialise” this change the gate has been installed and will be closed in early November.



## 6. Plantation Forests (Metro & Wairarapa)

Significant volumes have been harvested from both Stoney Creek 21,330 tons and Metro Forests 25,173 tons for the first half of the year (January – June). The main challenges for the industry seem to be labour related with retaining good logging crews and the availability of truck drivers.

Maymorn Forest harvesting (photo below of hauler in Maymorn) is progressing according to schedule. There have been a handful of incidents with the public venturing into the plantation area, which we are actively discouraging.

Parks has been opening access along Maymorn Drive on the weekends, which has generally kept the locals happy.



**7. Consideration of climate change**

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the Greater Wellington Climate Change Consideration Guide.

**8. The decision making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

**9. Recommendations**

*That the Environment Committee*

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

Report approved by:

**Lucy Baker**  
Acting, General Manager,  
Environment Management

Report approved by:

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

Report Approved by:

**Luke Troy**  
General Manager, Strategy

**Attachment 1:** Regional Council input into city and district council planning



**MEMO**

TO All Councillors  
 FROM Lucy Harper, Team Leader Environmental Policy  
 DATE 17 October 2018  
 DOCUMENT REF ENVPOL1-5-72

**Regional Council input into city and district council planning**

**1. Purpose**

To inform Councillors of Greater Wellington Regional Council’s input into the statutory resource management processes of territorial authorities in the region for the period from 6 September 2018 to 17 October 2018.

GWRC’s interest arises from the Council’s responsibilities for regional planning and the integrated management of natural and physical resources in the Wellington Region.

**2. City and District Council plan changes and resource consents**

<b>Territorial Authority</b>	<b>Status of Document</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Main topics commented on</b>	<b>Action</b>
Wellington City Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed District Plan Change 83 – Kiwi Point Quarry	Effects of proposed quarry extension for gravel extraction activities on biodiversity	Hearing date set for 10 and 11 December
Wellington City Council	Notified resource consent	Waterfront site 9- Customhouse Quay	Construction, use, and maintenance of a new five level commercial waterfront building and associated earthworks	Assessing the need for a submission by 9 November
Hutt City Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed district plan change 43 Residential and	Maintenance of water quality and quantity, transport	Hearing now expected in March 2019

<b>Territorial Authority</b>	<b>Status of Document</b>	<b>Name of Document</b>	<b>Main topics commented on</b>	<b>Action</b>
		mixed use	integration and urban design principally	
Upper Hutt City Council	Proposed plan change	Proposed plan change 42 Mangaroa and Pinehaven Flood Hazard Extents	Flood hazard and policy provisions	Mediation date November 15 and 16
Porirua City Council	Preparation for Draft District Plan	District Plan Review	Alignment with policy and operational matters	Assessing the draft e-plan of objectives and policies for feedback by 30 November
Kapiti Coast District Council	Decision version	Proposed District Plan Decisions version 2017	Joined as S274 party to appeals on matters in submission	Mediation on coastal matters November 14. Deliberations on consent orders continuing