



Report 04.18
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Committee Rural Services and Wairarapa
Author Colin Wright, Divisional Manager, Wairarapa

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of current activities and provide information of interest since the previous meeting held on 11 November 2003.

2. Divisional Matters

2.1 Staffing

Scott Forbes, the new Manager for the Bovine Tb Business Unit, commenced duties in the New Year. The Bovine Unit has been separated from the Biosecurity Department in order to satisfy Animal Health Board requirements. Scott's role is to operate a successful business unit within the new contestability environment and to continue the high quality vector control work that this Council is noted for. Scott previously managed a business unit for Alstom at the Hutt railway workshops.

Two Resource Advisors, Helen Marr and Lucy Martinez have resigned to travel overseas and Graham Sevicke-Jones, Section Leader - Resource Investigations, has resigned to take up a management position with Hawkes Bay Regional Council.

Karen Williams has returned as Section Leader - Policy and Planning following a year's parental leave and Siobhan McDonnell has resigned from her contract position to return to Ireland.

Darryl Squires has been employed under contract until mid-March to assist with environmental monitoring programmes.

2.2 Kiwi Release

As reported in the media, six kiwi were released into the wild at the Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre in December. Greater Wellington has played a

significant role with the pest control work in the Pukaha/Mt Bruce project. It was a privilege for several Biosecurity staff and myself to be present at this historic occasion – the first time on the mainland that kiwi have been released into the wild outside of protective enclosures.

2.3 Debt Collection – Mr Benton

From time to time Council staff have to resort to legal action to collect legitimate debts owed to the Council. I would like to acknowledge the intervention of Committee member, Alex Benton, in one such matter that resulted in payment from one regular debtor without further legal costs having to be incurred.

3. Land & River Operations Department: (Ian Gunn)

Land Management

3.1 Irrigation at Akura Conservation Centre

Soil moisture recording began at the three sites within Akura on 16 October 2003. The sites are recorded weekly and each recording comes with a recommendation for irrigation, including the required application rate. Soil moisture levels remained within acceptable limits until late December. On 23 December, soil moisture levels in the cultivated ground containing new cuttings began to fall sharply. Water has been applied at 25mm per week since 29 December. No significant rainfall was recorded until 19/20 January.

While the new cuttings have received preferential treatment, water has also been applied to all blocks that had poles cut during 2003.

The nursery has responded very well to the combination of good sunshine hours and adequate water. All new cuttings have struck, and growth has been very good despite a cool period in early summer. Similarly the new growth off cut stumps and the one year poles have reached good heights for this time of year.

3.2 Farm Environment Awards

These Awards are entering their third year. Eighteen entries have been received and preliminary judging will be completed by the end of February. The level of entries compares favourably with previous years when fifteen and twenty entries were received in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

Hill country sheep and beef farms are particularly well represented, with numbers from the dairy sector down on previous years.

Finalists in each category will be decided in mid-February, followed by the final round of judging. The Awards evening is scheduled for 15 April 2004.

3.3 Soil Quality Monitoring

The baseline monitoring for soil quality throughout the region has been completed. The data set has been reviewed with a number of trends appearing. A summary of these trends is as follows:

- Soil quality is generally good and falls mostly within acceptable ranges
- Abnormally high bulk density was detected at 2 cropping sites
- Low aggregate stability was detected at 1 cropping site and 2 market garden sites
- Low macroporosity was detected at 2 cropping sites, 6 dairying sites and 3 drystock sites.

Although soil quality is generally good, the results do indicate structural breakdown in cultivated soils, and compaction in cultivated and grazed soils, at some sites. However the number of sites sampled under each use is too small to say with any confidence, whether the problems are widespread.

It is proposed to increase the sample size under each use to 20 sites. For the six land use types present in the existing data set, this will require a further 73 sites. It is hoped that available funding will enable 50 sites to be sampled in the spring of 2004 and the balance in 2005.

Conservation Forestry

3.4 Tauanui Logging

Road line logging in Tauanui commenced on 12th November with 1100 tonnes of *Pinus radiata* and *nigra* being produced by the end of November at an average net return of \$28.50.

Market opportunities improved further in December as a result of a log shortage in Korea and at the local JNL Mill. As a result the 2350 tonnes produced between 1st and 19th December averaged a net return of \$40.07 per tonne. This included 160 tonnes of poplar down to an 18cm small end averaging \$28.00 per tonne.

Log truck access was extended during the Christmas shutdown period and 5th January with roading contractors forming and metalling the extension through the logged area.

The balance of the Poplar was logged in the first week of January and further road line logging commenced on the 12th. The high proportion of small branched large diameter sawlog is being well sought after by our customers. The current improvement in the Korean market is providing a

lucrative return for the lower grades which would otherwise be sold at a loss as pulp.

The logging truck traffic on Whakatomotomo Road has received positive comment. One incident with a contractor vehicle clearly had fault on both sides.

3.5 Forest Fire Danger

The rain this week has provided welcome relief from fire danger which had reached extreme levels resulting in a Wairarapa-wide total fire ban.

Technical Services

3.6 Technical Services tasks have included;

Gravel Licencing, returns and problems
Riverbed monitoring programme 6 monthly cross sections Tauherenikau, Waiohine, Waipoua, Upper Ruamahanga Rivers
Cable car testing Tauherenikau, Mt Bruce and Waiohine
Turanganui re survey of cross sections 1 to 10 check bed level volumes
Review of Ruamahanga gravel consent, information for report and submission to increase extraction volumes
Coastal surveys 6 monthly surveys at Riversdale and Castlepoint
Yearly surveys of Kokatau, Gladstone and Waihenga river sites.
Soil Conservation farm and sustainability mapping
BovineTb mapping.

River Management

3.7 Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme

Temporary repairs have been completed on the Scadden's section of the stopbank in the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme. Also the river berm has been re-instated in areas which have eroded in the Lower Ruamahanga River. Drain cleanings are being used to re-shape the berm which is then covered with reject gravels won from the Tauherenikau River. An inspection of the Western and Eastern tributaries of the Lower Ruamahanga was completed by the Lower Wairarapa Valley Development Scheme Review Committee in late January.

3.8 Stopbank Upgrade – Te Whiti

Staff are hopeful of meeting with landowners in the Te Whiti area about the proposed stopbank upgrade. The objective is to clarify any resource consent issues.

3.9 Stopbank Erosion – Waipoua River

Gravel groynes, partly funded from the gravel royalty fund, have been placed in front of the recently reconstructed stopbank at Gold's property

on the Waipoua River. The gravel groynes will protect the toe of the stopbank from erosion. This area has been under attack for a number of years. The scheme manager has taken the opportunity to realign the river in this section.

4. Biosecurity Department: (Wayne O'Donnell)

Plants

4.1 Eradication Species

Blue passionflower

One new site of blue passionflower has been located in Petone. This site has been controlled.

A further site has been located at Haitaita. As this is a recent reporting, control has not yet been undertaken.

Perennial nettle

Four new sites of perennial nettle have been located during December - January. The most significant infestation was located on Matua/Sommes Island. An inspection of the island showed that perennial nettle was present in most areas ranging from scattered to dense infestations. The Pest Plants Section will contact the Department of Conservation to discuss what steps can be taken to eradicate the infestations. The find on the island is the largest infestation of perennial nettle that has been recorded to date in the region and the first to be located in the western area of the region. It appears that DoC was aware of the plants existence on the island as the infestation is listed in the Pest Plant Atlas for the Wellington Conservancy, but seemingly nothing has been done to control or eradicate it.

Three other sites were located at Manaia Road, Masterton, during survey work carried out specifically to determine the presence of perennial nettle. The survey covers the Makora and Kuripuni Streams as well as the Manaia drainage scheme. It is expected that further infestations will be located during the survey. These sites have been recorded and will be included in the Service Delivery contract that will be tendered in February.

Eelgrass

An infestation of eelgrass was located in the Maidstone Park pond, Upper Hutt. The Upper Hutt City Council drained the pond to eradicate the infestation.

Sweet Pea Shrub

Several large infestations of this species have been recently been located in Wellington City. The majority of sites have been cleared by Wellington City staff. Two sites have been included in the Service Delivery contract.

Moth Plant

Two new sites have been located, with one in Masterton and the other in South Wairarapa. Both were of a minor nature and were controlled on inspection.

4.2 Containment Species

Hornwort

With the onset of the warm weather the Hornwort in Forest Lakes has increased dramatically. Staff are awaiting the outcome of the application to ERMA and ACVM to import the chemical Endothall before organising any further control works in the Lakes. The original application of Diquat gave only short term relief with remaining Hornwort fragments quickly re-invading controlled areas.

4.3 Suppression Species

New infestations of buckthorn and mistflower have been located during routine inspections of properties for cathedral bells in Wellington City.

Old Man's Beard

Two Notices of Direction have been served in Hataitai during this period due to complaints being received.

Two sites were located in Upper Hutt City parks. Both have been managed.

Cathedral Bells

New sites of this species are continually being located, particularly in Wellington City. As most sites have minor infestations, work at these sites is being undertaken by GW staff.

4.4 Cape Tulip – Former Class A Noxious Plant

All inspections and re-inspections of the cape tulip sites have been undertaken. Two plants were found on one property. This site had been inactive for seven years.

4.5 Plant Outlet Inspections

Most of the plant outlet inspections in the west zone have been completed. No pest plants have been located to date.

4.6 Client Responses

During this period 235 client responses (Wellington 131, Wairarapa 104) have been dealt with. The majority of these queries have related to old man's beard and bindweed (convolvulus).

4.7 Biological Control

On 26 November Robert Anderson, a plant biologist visiting from Hawaii, gave a presentation to Plants staff and individuals of other organisations on his work with plant pathogens to control wild ginger in Hawaii. He ran several seminars around the country. Landcare Research sponsored the trip.

Hugh Gourlay from Landcare Research was also in Wellington for the presentation and the following day he inspected the OMB sawfly release site in Wellington City. Hugh remains optimistic that the agent has established, despite minimal evidence of sawfly damage.

Bovine Tb

4.8 Vector Management Contracts

Negotiations are continuing with the Animal Health Board (AHB) concerning the new Vector Management contracts. The existing contract has been extended until the end of February in the anticipation that prior agreement will be reached. A small group representing affected Regional Councils are involved in the deliberations, supported by a legal practitioner.

The proposed contracts are significantly different from those that have been agreed over the past decade, as follows –

- ◆ Considerable length – in excess of 80 pages for the Specifications and General Conditions;
- ◆ Direct linkage with the new AHB Business Strategy and Systems programme with strong emphasis on performance measurement systems;
- ◆ Prescribed outcomes concerning performance requirements under the new AHB Planning framework (i.e. Local Control Plan, Contract Plan, Capacity Plan and Local Environment Management Plan);
- ◆ The introduction of non-performance points – the intent of the points regime is to identify when a series of failures by the Council to perform entitles the AHB to terminate the agreement. Reviews are conducted every four months with points accumulating for one year only;
- ◆ AHB desire for Councils to adopt the role of head contractor to the AHB with all vector control contracts being full subcontractors. Councils will therefore be liable for subcontractor performance failure;
- ◆ The likelihood of Councils having to include a risk premium in the Management Fee for issues that the AHB prefers Councils to manage.

Affected Councils are currently providing feedback to the representative group. Issues that remain contentious include –

- ◆ Provisions relating to the vesting of Council and subcontractor intellectual property to the AHB;
- ◆ Ability to adjust the Management Fee during the term of the contract if the AHB expand the Local Control Plan significantly different to that anticipated by Councils. Similarly, if the Crown require amendments to standards under the Crown/AHB Vector Control Funding Agreement;
- ◆ That the contract should not apply to current year obligations completed or subcontracts entered into prior to signing of the contract.

4.9 2003/04 Programme

The approved programme for the 2003/04 year includes the following:

	Hectares
Possum Control	328,116
Ferret Control	31,770
Surveys	<u>43,795</u>
	403,681

This programme has subsequently been reviewed because trend monitors in some stratas indicated control was not necessary. Savings from lower than expected tenders have also enabled staff to seek AHB approval for additional control to be brought forward from the 2004/05 year.

The AHB have recently confirmed approval for the following control areas to be removed from the 2003/04 programme -

	Strata	Hectares
Tinui	MR 4	3,448
Te Wharau	HR 5	2,325
Te Wharau	HR 6	2,275
Te Wharau	MR 5	4,478
Te Wharau	MR 6	2,600
Taueru-Maungaraki Ext	HR 1	4,216
Ponatahi-Longbush	MR 1	6,029
Mt Bruce-Waipoua	MR 2	2,905
Mt Bruce-Waipoua	MR 3	679
Woodside	HR 1	1,046

The control reduction represents an operational saving of \$392,800.

(1) New Operations

The following new work was approved by AHB following the review. This work will be bought forward from the 2004/05 programme:

SE Wairarapa – Stage 3	2,232
Masterton Flats	4,600

4.10 2003/04 Contractor Programme

To date the following contractors have been issued control contracts for the 2003/04 year:

	Possum (ha)	Ferret (ha)	Survey (ha)	Totals
Remove Control	22,121	-	-	22,121
GWRC Bovine Unit	183,761	23,828	22,349	229,938
Professional Guiding	41,891	2,874	3,102	47,867
J McCaslin	38,835	-	2,838	41,673
Target Pest Control	6,620	-	-	6,620
Horizons Regional Council	6,581	-	-	6,581
Central Trappers	4,700	-	-	4,700
Unallocated	23,607	5,068	10,459	39,134
Grand Totals:	328,116	31,770	39,134	403,681

Priority will be given to ensure all unallocated work is contracted in early February.

4.11 Area Completed

Approximately 87,300 hectares of possum control has successfully been completed to date this year. Many other hectares have been treated but will not be classified completed until a successful performance monitor has been achieved.

(1) Monitor Results

The following list represents monitoring results to hand for the 2003/04 year. A significant amount of monitoring is planned for the remaining 5 months of the financial year.

	Strata	RTC %	Operator
Bideford	HR 2	0.0	J McCaslin
Bideford	HR 3	0.2	J McCaslin
Bideford	MR 1	0.6	Professional Guiding
Castlehill	HR 1	0.8	J McCaslin
Castlehill	HR 2	2.0	J McCaslin
Featherston	HR 4	0.2	GWRC

Featherston	HR 5	0.0	GWRC
Homewood-Riversdale	HR 1	0.2	GWRC
Homewood-Riversdale	MR 1	0.2	GWRC
Homewood-Riversdale	MR 2	0.1	GWRC
Kahutara-Pirinoa	HR 2	0.0	GWRC
Kahutara-Pirinoa	MR 3	1.6	GWRC
Martinborough	HR 2	0.0	Professional Guiding
Mt Bruce-Waipoua	MR 1(fail)	2.4	GWRC
Mt Bruce-Waipoua	MR 1	0.7	GWRC
Ponatahi-Longbush	MR 2	0.6	Professional Guiding
Ruamahanga River	MR 1	0.7	GWRC
Ruamahanga River	MR 2	0.7	GWRC
Sth East Wai – Stg 1	MR 4	4.5	(Trend)
Sth East Wai – Stg 2	MR 2	0.0	GWRC
Stronvar	MR 2	2.9	GWRC
Taueru-Maungaraki	MR 1	1.9	GWRC
Te Wharau	HR 5	0.0	J McCaslin
Te Wharau	MR 5	3.0	(Trend)
Te Wharau	MR 6	1.3	(Trend)
Tinui	HR 1	0.4	GWRC
Tinui	MR 4	3.0	(Trend)
Tinui	MR 5	5.0	(Trend)

Pest Animals

4.12 Communications

Two upcoming events that will be attended by Biosecurity staff are the Pauatahanui Food and Farm Festival on Sunday, 14 March and the Naturally Ngaio Day on Sunday, 28 March. Both events will include areas of interest in biodiversity and ecosystem restoration.

Pest Animals staff attended a meeting at Eastbourne on 14 January in conjunction with GW Parks and Forest staff to brief the local Mainland Island Restoration Organisation (MIRO) and the Eastbourne Forest Rangers (EFR) about the forthcoming predator control in East Harbour Regional Park and adjacent properties. An undertaking was given to engage with the local community and to invite their participation at levels they were comfortable with. Both MIRO and EFR have a long association with the care and restoration of the forest, particularly in the Gollans and Butterfly Creek areas. Liaison with the groups will be primarily through the Park Ranger, Gareth Cooper.

4.13 Rabbits

In spite of the lengthy spell of hot dry weather there has been no upsurge in the number of enquiries for rabbit control. There is still a nuisance factor in most coastal communities and on lighter soil types adjacent to the coastal belts.

The annual inspections have been completed on the Waingawa and Tauherenikau riverbeds. Whilst rabbit densities are slightly up on last year's assessment, the levels are not of concern. These types of braided riverbeds provide an early useful indication of probable regional rabbit population trends.

It is probable that the rabbit calicivirus (RCD) is cycling but Council officers have no firm evidence of this. RCD can be difficult to discern when it is cycling in low rabbit densities.

The RCD import application (on behalf of a regional council consortium led by Environment Southland) has gone to the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) and to the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Group as well. Consultation with Iwi is also underway. It is our intention that the use of the imported RCD be restricted, with application as a biocide on lifestyle blocks or in the vicinity of urban areas where the use of conventional toxins are restricted. RCD immune rabbits could still be a problem in some areas.

4.14 Mount Bruce – Pukaha Predator Buffer Control Project

Steady progress is being made on this ongoing maintenance project. The release of kiwi into the Mount Bruce Reserve on 10 December last year has meant that the use of Timms kill traps has had to be curtailed. An alternative approach is being considered to keep proficient control of feral cats.

The forested area of the Reserve has now had the possum population reduced by DoC to the same low level of the surrounding farmed land. DoC used 1080 grain based pellets in 1000 stations to achieve a 1.5% RTC and are now focused on using rat and Fenn traps for predator control.

4.15 Wasps

Client response staff from the City and District Councils, the Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington maintain registers of wasp nuisance calls for each year ending 30 June. An annual report is produced by Biosecurity Officer, Ken Wright, based on the data supplied for each register. Data has been accumulated for the past 13 consecutive years.

The report concludes that the wasp season for 2002-03 was low for the Wellington region. A nuisance level prediction was made after considering the mean minimum air temperatures for November 2002 and the likely effect on the survival of hibernating queen wasps. The prediction was for low wasp levels throughout the region except for Wellington City. Wellington City experienced the highest number of wasp nests ever reported which coincided with the prediction.

Of note is that March was the peak month for wasp complaints. Only one German wasp nest was reported, located in Hutt City.

4.16 Feral Cat Control at Crofton Downs, Wellington City

A colony of feral cats has been controlled at an industrial machinery storage site on the edge of the urban area at Crofton Downs. The expanding cat population posed a threat to native fauna in adjacent Huntleigh Park Key Native Ecosystem, as well as being a health hazard. The cats were being fed regularly by a well-meaning person concerned for their welfare.

To date, 47 cats have been live captured over five days and then assessed by the SPCA as to suitability for pets. Most of the cats have been euthanased. At least three wild cats are known to still live at the site but are trap-shy. Alternative control methods are being considered.

Biosecurity Officer, Fiona Bancroft, working in conjunction with local residents, DoC, Wellington City Council, Wellington SPCA, Forest and Bird and the Cat Protection League is conducting the operation. The cat problem has existed for over two years but no one agency would take responsibility for rectifying it until the Biosecurity Department intervened. Most of the costs are being met by GW with the SPCA offering a 50% discount for euthanasia fees.

A final report will be provided to the City Council in the hope that this problem will be the catalyst for a new City Council bylaw to negate this type of situation arising again in areas of significant natural values. All adjacent residents will also receive a letter of thanks recognising their high level support for the operation.

4.17 Contractual Works for Regional Parks and Forests Department

The Pest Animals Section is undertaking to control possums in three areas for Parks and Forests before the end of the financial year. The areas are Speedy's Reserve (Kelson) (154ha), East Harbour Regional Park Northern Block (2375ha) and the Pencarrow Lakes Block (390ha). The latter operations should be more advanced than what they are. There have been a series of unavoidable delays created through park management factors, namely the formalising of the East Harbour Northern Block and the appointment of the Park Ranger, together with a grazing lease issue on the Pencarrow Block.

Due to time constraints and resourcing issues, serious consideration is being given to sub-contracting the operations to the private sector. In the normal course of events the Section would have preferred to do the initial works because of the high public use and sensitive nature of the problems associated with these areas.

5. Planning & Resources Department: (Steve Blakemore)

5.1 Environmental Incidents

Date	Incident	Outcome
7 Nov 03	Milk spilled from crashed tanker, South Wairarapa	Cleaned up by the various emergency services that attended.
10 Nov 03	Waipoua River discoloured, Masterton	Unable to trace source. Suspect stormwater pollution from suburban Masterton.
12 Nov 03	Remains of butchered animal in Waiohine River.	Removed and disposed of by staff.
13 Nov 03	Makoura stream discoloured, Masterton	Unable to trace source. Suspect stormwater pollution from suburban Masterton.
22 Nov 03	Water pollution in stream, rural Carterton	Found to be piggery effluent in stream. Two infringement notices issued.
24 Nov 03	Flower grower reported spraydrift, rural Masterton	Agrichemical contractor has agreed to take care when spraying around this property.
26 Nov 03	Spray drift complaint, rural Masterton	Unable to determine whether a problem existed – complaint made some time after event.
5 Dec 03	Concern at coastal works with a digger, installation of unauthorised septic tank, and damming of wetland, rural Carterton	Council has required removal of septic tank. Wetland staff are talking to owner of wetland about on-going management. No further action required on coastal works.
12 Dec 03	Abandoned vehicle in Waiohine River	Removed by Council at ratepayer's cost. Unable to trace owner.
17 Dec 03	Milk spilled from Fonterra tanker, urban Greytown	Cleaned up by Fire Service.
17 Dec 03	Water pollution, Kuripuni stream, Masterton	Caused by burst water main. Water main repaired as soon as practicable.
19 Dec 03	Dust from joinery factory causing complaint, Greytown	On-going problem site. Engineering solutions need to be found. Staff still talking to joinery factory about improvements.
6 Jan 04	Erosion, noise and dust problems reported from neighbours of a quarry, rural South Wairarapa.	On-going problem site. Staff negotiating with various parties. Consents likely to be required.
16 Jan 04	Well run dry, rural Carterton	Staff have provided advice on water levels in the vicinity. No obvious cause of exceptionally low water levels.

5.2 Notified Consents

<i>Consent Application</i>	<i>Status</i>
The Terrace – Martinborough Groundwater take.	Limited notification, submissions closing 11 February.
Sewage discharge. Application for variation – Carterton District	Submissions closed on 19/12/02. Application on hold at applicants request.
Water Races - Carterton District (2)	Awaiting further information from applicant's consultant.
Water Races - South Wairarapa District (2)	Submissions closed and pre hearing meeting held. On hold at applicant's request to allow review of Code of Practice
Featherston Sewage – discharge	Notified.
Hammond and Co. Ground Water Take - Papawai	Limited Notification. Submissions closed 20 October 2003. Pre hearing meeting held. Conditions being drafted.

5.3 Enforcement

Two infringement notices were issued following the discharge of piggery effluent to a stream in the Mangatarere catchment.

5.4 Appeals

<i>Appellant</i>	Nature of Appeal	Status
J Barton	Additional charges on withdrawn stopbank access application	Appeal upheld by Judge Thomson on the basis that the designation issue should have been decided first.
J Barton	Requirement for “up front” payment of estimated consent processing costs.	Appeal upheld on the basis that the number of proposed commissioners and estimated processing and hearings costs were not considered to be reasonable and the appellant should not be required to pay ‘up front’.
I Alexander	Appeal of abatement notice requiring irrigation to cease	Heard before Judge Sheppard. Additional evidence provided. Decision waited. Decision has important ramifications.

5.5 Coastal Strategy

The second draft of the Strategy was presented to a District Council workshop on 15 December 2003 and was very well received. The Strategy is now to be printed together with a Coastal Guidelines document. Both documents will be launched in late February/early March. The Coastal Strategy group had its final meeting on 26 January 2004.

The Office of the Auditor General is producing a publication that focuses on co-operative projects between councils, using the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy Group as one of the a case studies. Bill Gebbie from the Special Audits and Studies group has met with the Chairman and staff to discuss the Wairarapa project and obtain information. The report will be emphasising the requirements of strong governance and project management for such projects to succeed and the high dollar and staff costs necessary for achievement. Publication is planned for the middle of the year.

5.6 Carterton Sewage

Non notified consents were granted prior to Christmas permitting a three-year trial of wetland treatment, sub surface irrigation and some injection of treated sewage on Council owned land around the treatment plant and landfill in Dalefield Road.

This trial has enabled the Council to achieve compliance with the consent condition that requires discharges to the Mangatarere Stream to cease for the three summer months each year.

5.7 Hydrology

Whilst December rainfalls were below average, spring rainfall had been excellent up to then. River levels had remained generally reasonable with no bans or irrigation restrictions in place.

In the seven days from 19 January, widespread rain occurred throughout the Wairarapa under warm east to southeast conditions. The rainfall varied from 275 mm at Bull Mound in the Tararua foothills to 210 mm at Taniwha Hut, 123 mm at Masterton and 85 mm at Tauherenikau. This saw a good rise in river levels, but only to first stage alarm levels at Waihenga and Hautotara.

There were a number of small river freshes in December with flood warnings issued to six lists.

The low flow gauging programme will soon commence to provide the data needed for consent compliance monitoring and the development of water allocation plans.

6. Recommendation

That the report be received and its contents noted.

Colin Wright

Divisional Manager, Wairarapa