



Report 05.193
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Committee Landcare
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Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Managers' reports

The Departmental Managers reports are attached.

4. Landcorp farms

We are continuing our positive discussions with Landcorp and the government with a view to retaining Waitangirua Farm in Belmont Regional Park. Councillors Buchanan and Laidlaw recently attended a meeting with the relevant Ministers, local Mayors and Landcorp to see if a solution could be brokered. Further meetings are planned.

There have also been developments in relation to Whareroa Farm. On 5 May 2005, Cr Shields attended a similar positive meeting between the Minister of State Owned Enterprises, local MP's and KCDC elected members to discuss the future of the farm.

5. Gravel extraction

As you can see from the two reports in this Order Paper we are gearing up to significantly increase the rate of gravel extraction from the Hutt and Waikanae rivers. Our gravel extraction has been increasing over the past two or three years but the February 2004 and January 2005 storms mean that we need to take even more.

At this point all looks positive, however, Councillors should be aware that in order to extract sufficient gravel we will need to significantly modify our resource consents. As that is likely to be a public process there exists the potential for people to object to our plans and thus delay the start of the enhanced extraction. While those who are vulnerable to flooding generally support increased gravel extraction others can raise concerns about the effects on instream life.

6. Parks marketing strategy paying off

As with last year, the 2005 Summer Programme has been a roaring success. To my mind the success of the Summer Programme is another example of the success of our wider marketing strategy. Over the past three years Parks and Forests redesigned their marketing strategy and it seems to be paying off. In almost all parks, visitor numbers are trending up and we've retained the high satisfaction ratings which were built in the late 1990's.

7. Flood repairs going well

Thanks to some hard work from our staff and contractors the flood damage repairs are proceeding along nicely. At the end of the month we will conclude our instream work and concentrate on willow planting/maintenance for the winter. We will also be stockpiling rock so that we can complete the bank reamouring in the spring. If all goes to plan the entire clean up will be concluded by late this year (provided we don't get any more floods).

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Departmental reports