



**Report** 05.289  
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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. Managers' reports**

The Departmental Managers' Reports are attached.

### **3. Waitangirua Farm**

As you are aware, we are continuing to make good progress in our discussions on Waitangirua Farm. Nevertheless, it will still be some weeks before we are in a position to make any public announcements.

### **4. Whareroa Farm**

A group called Guardians of Whareroa has formed with the express aim of ensuring that Whareroa farm remains in public ownership. Together with KCDC, the Guardians recently hosted the Minister of Conservation on a site visit to the farm.

Following that visit the Guardians wrote to Councillor Buchanan suggesting that if the farm were maintained in public ownership GWRC could take the management role. The Guardians have also invited the Landcare Committee to visit the farm.

### **5. The real workers are here!**

This meeting includes an oral report from our Area Engineers on the Flood Protection operational programme. To coincide with that report, we have invited the Mabey Road and Otaki Depot staff to attend the meeting.

For nearly two years many of these people have been more or less constantly repairing flood damage as well as doing the normal maintenance that ensures that the flood defences are up to scratch when it rains. At times it has been very frustrating; no sooner than they have completed repairs and the next flood starts the cycle again. The jobs they do are often very visible so they regularly

get the public's opinion (good and bad) about the quality of our work – and no doubt, many other things.

Despite the difficulties of the last two years, the Riverhands have continued to quietly “do the business”. A lot of people in the region are safer because of their work.

## **6. 2004/05**

This year has been one of the more interesting for Landcare.

Parks and Forests continue to go from strength to strength. The relatively new “marketing” and “environmental” programmes are starting to produce impressive results to go alongside our longstanding asset management, volunteer, and ranger programmes. I've also been very pleased at the progress made in the management plans. Management planning can be a time consuming process and the planning team have worked very hard to get two plans finalised and another to draft from this year.

For Flood Protection the year has been a tough test which they've come through very well. On the capital works side the Ava to Ewen realignment is all but complete and will come in early and on budget. It speaks volumes for the quality of Daya Attapatu and his team's work that there were only nine submissions on the Hutt District Plan Change. This plan change will assist to prevent unsuitable development in floodable parts of the Hutt River Corridor.

The other highlight has been our advisory service. Steve Murphy, Jacki Cox, Phil Purves, Geoff Dick, and both Area Engineers have provided a vast amount of advice to property owners who were either directly affected by the January floods or wanted to make sure the houses they were about to build would not flood. In January many of these people saw the destructive power of their “little stream” for the first time. The assistance provided by our staff will help ensure that those people can protect themselves from the consequences of flooding.

## **7. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

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

Report prepared by:

**Rob Forlong**

Divisional Manager, Landcare

**Attachment 1:** Departmental reports