



Report 08.16
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Committee Parks, Forests and Utilities
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Water Supply, Parks and Forests

Divisional report for period ended 31 January 2008

1. Divisional Performance

1.1 Introduction

The last divisional report was for the period ending 9 November 2007. Hence, this report covers a period of approximately two and a half months.

1.2 Parks

Summer is naturally the busiest time in the parks and the managers' reports outline a number of activities that have occurred over the last two months.

Work is continuing on a new draft concessions policy for consideration by the Council before it is released for public consultation. It is expected further information will be available by the time of the next Committee meeting.

A review of the parks' bylaws has started and it appears this issue is more complex than was initially thought. Changes to various Acts concerning local government have removed the need for bylaws in some areas and there may be an option not to have any bylaws at all. Further information will be reported to the Committee in due course.

A separate report contains a pro forma submission requesting a review of some specific sections in the Local Government Act. The Committee is asked to endorse the submission.

1.3 Marketing and Design

There has been a good response to this year's Regional Outdoors Programme, helped by a particularly warm and fine summer.

Our water conservation campaign has started and a particularly dry January led to a situation where a cautionary media release was made on 1 February requesting the public to conserve water, particularly in relation to garden watering.

1.4 Forestry

The Government introduced a Climate Change (Emissions Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill in December and submissions for this close at the end of February. The main impact on the Council relates to its plantation forestry operations, in particular, those forests planted before 1990. However, as long as the Council continues its policy of sustainable forestry the impact, if any, is not likely to be great. There will be an impact where trees planted prior to 1990 are cleared for a wind farm development and not replanted. A submission is being prepared supporting the general thrust of the Government's proposal but seeking relief where pre-1990 trees are harvested and then not replanted because the land is being used for renewable energy generation. The Committee is asked to delegate to the Committee Chair the right to approve the Council submission.

At the end of December just over 35,000 tonnes of logs had been harvested from the metro forest, which means the slightly stretched target of achieving 70,000 tonnes for the first time by the end of June 2008 should be obtainable.

In the Wairarapa logging has been suspended given the apparent financial difficulties of the mill we supply a large percentage of our logs to. Transport costs preclude exporting logs via CentrePort with current log prices.

1.5 Greater Wellington Water

An approach has been made to this division about the possibility of using one of the Stuart Macaskill Lakes for a water event as part of an overall multi-sport event to be held in the Upper Hutt area in 2009. Up to now all requests to use one of the lakes have been declined for operational reasons. However, we have now had 20 years experience of lake management and the Te Marua Water Treatment Plant operates in a much more robust way than when it was first built. Also, our operational procedures are such that we usually only pump from Lake 1 to the water treatment plant and not directly from Lake 2 to the water treatment plant. For this reason, it may be possible to use Lake 2 for a multi-sport event. A report will be brought to the next Committee meeting.

We are keen to progress a new Central Business District reservoir in Wellington City in conjunction with Wellington City Council and hopefully the Capital and Coast District Health Board. This proposal has now been discussed for some years but little progress has been made with Capital and Coast District Health Board. Prior to Christmas it was indicated to the Health Board that time is running short for decision making and an answer was requested by 31 March 2008.

The various sections for a report on a water supply strategy for the Region are being collated at present. Of considerable promise as a partial solution for metropolitan Wellington is increasing the water storage by about 13 percent in the Stuart Macaskill Lakes by raising the maximum water level. More detailed investigation work is about to start.

2. Financial Performance as at 31 December 2007

Last Year to Date \$000s		Year to Date Actual \$000s	Year to Date Budget \$000s	Year End Forecast \$000s	Year End Budget \$000s
	Water Supply				
13,728	Income	13,598	13,617	27,201	27,339
13,829	Expenditure	12,945	14,758	26,256	29,166
(101)	Operating Surplus (Deficit)	653	(1,141)	945	(1,932)
	Plantation Forestry				
2,546	Income	2,371	2,600	7,158	7,338
3,140	Expenditure	3,206	3,212	6,505	6,433
(594)	Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(835)	(612)	653	905
	Reserve Forests				
623	Income	567	591	2,031	2,072
1,051	Expenditure	1,013	987	1,967	1,975
(428)	Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(446)	(396)	64	97
	Parks				
3,244	Income	3,225	3,274	6,383	6,548
2,814	Expenditure	2,891	3,292	6,506	6,869
430	Operating Surplus (Deficit)	334	(18)	(123)	(321)

3. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

Report prepared by:

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Attachments

- 1 Parks, Marketing and Design, Forestry, Water Supply, Engineering Services and Renewable Energy reports for period ending 31 January 2008
- 2 Letter from DLA Phillips Fox regarding process adopted to review the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Management Plan