



Report 10.167
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Committee Council
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Report on Regulatory Committee meeting held on 9 June 2010

1. Purpose

To inform council about the meeting of the Regulatory Committee that took place on 9 June 2010.

2. Reports

2.1 Recreational water quality monitoring report 2009/10

Greater Wellington and the region's territorial authorities undertake a recreational water quality monitoring programme in order to fulfil respective legislative responsibilities and establish background levels of faecal bacteria in surface waters, thereby permitting assessment of environmental contamination.

As with previous years, recreational water quality at freshwater bathing sites was strongly influenced by rainfall. The majority of monitored sites exceeded the action guideline at least once following rainfall, reflecting the effects of non-point source agricultural and/or urban stormwater run-off (most sites are located within catchments with a significant portion of pastoral or urban land cover).

The number of marine bathing sites that exceeded the action guideline over the 2009/10 summer was more than the previous summer (51% in 2009/10 compared to 23% in the 2008/09) but similar to the 2007/08 and 2006/07 bathing seasons when 56% and 39% of marine sites exceeded respectively. Only 11 sites (14.9%) exceeded the guideline more than once.

Copies of "On the Beaches 2009/10" will be sent to all the territorial authorities in the region and to Regional Public Health and Wairarapa Public Health. The report will also be made available to the public via Greater Wellington's bathing webpage and a press release issued.

2.2 Regulations on the measurement and reporting of water takes

Accurate, complete and current water information is critical in establishing a water management system in which water is effectively allocated and efficiently used. Without accurate information on water use, we cannot get a true picture of the extent and availability of our water resources and how it is used.

The region's water resources are coming under increasing pressure with much of the groundwater and surface water close to or at full allocation. Demand is not decreasing and this picture is being repeated nationally.

Against this background a discussion paper was released in late 2006 to begin the process of putting in place a National Environmental Standard (NES) for water measuring devices with the objective of requiring consent holders to install water meters to record water takes. This process has instead culminated with Cabinet agreeing that regulations be drafted on the metering and reporting of consented water takes.

The regulations will come into force 28 days after they are gazetted. A likely timeline for gazetting is not available; however, it is possible that gazetting will be as early as July 2010.

3. Regular reports

Regular summary reports on decisions on non-notified resource consent applications, pollution control incidents, and the council's input into city and district planning were also provided. This information is readily available on the Council's website to ensure accessibility of the information.

4. Unconfirmed minutes

The unconfirmed minutes of the committee meeting are attached as **Attachment 1**.

5. Recommendations

That Council:

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

Report prepared by:



Sally Baber
Chair, Regulatory Committee

Report approved by:



Nigel Corry
General Manager,
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Group

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes