

# NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Agenda

Meeting of the  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
to be held in the Council Chambers, 36 Water Street, Whangarei  
on Tuesday, 26 March 2013 commencing at 9:30am

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Cr J Carr, Chairman

Cr G Ramsey (Deputy Chairman)  
Cr T Davies-Colley  
Ms D Maxwell  
Dr G Blunden  
Mr A Clarkson

Cr C Brown (ex officio)  
Cr B Rossiter  
Mr C Jenkins  
Mr R Booth

Cr B Hunt  
Mr C Christie  
Ms N Anderson  
Mr G Gover

### OPEN MEETING

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**ISSUE: Confirmation of Minutes – 19 February 2013**

**ID:** A298970

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary

**Date:** 4 March 2013

**Summary:** The purpose of this report is to confirm the minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 19 February 2013.

**Normal Operations** ☒

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**Report:**

The minutes are **attached**.

**Compliance with decision making processes:**

Councils are required to keep minutes of proceedings in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002.

**Recommendation:**

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1. That the minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 19 February 2013 be confirmed.
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**NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee Meeting  
held in the Council Chambers,  
Northland Regional Council, 36 Water Street, Whāngārei, on  
Tuesday 19 February 2013, commencing at 9.30 am

**Present:**

**Northland Regional Council**

Cr Joe Carr (Chairman)  
Cr Graeme Ramsey (Deputy Chairman)  
Cr Craig Brown (ex officio)  
Cr Bronwyn Hunt  
Cr Bill Rossiter

**Whāngārei District Council**

Cr Crichton Christie

**Environmental Interest Groups**

Dr Greg Blunden

**Farming Community**

Mr Alan Clarkson

**Department of Conservation**

Mr Chris Jenkins

**Forestry Industry**

Mr Geoff Gover

**In Attendance:**

**Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd**

Carolyn Mortland, GM Environmental Policy  
Nuala Platts, Team Leader Sustainable Dairying  
Terence Brocx, Shareholder Councillor

**Northland Regional Council**

Chief Executive Officer (9.45am)  
Operations Director  
General Manager – Community Relations  
General Manager – Policy and Planning (part)  
Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager  
Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager  
Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager (part)  
Rivers Programme Manager (part)  
Env Monitoring Programme Manager Water and Wastes  
Policy Programme Manager (part)  
Policy Specialists (part)  
Economist (part)  
Env Monitoring Officer – State of the Environment  
Water Allocation Officers (part)  
Biodiversity Officer (part)  
Biosecurity Officer (part)  
River Management Engineer (part)  
Committee Secretary

## **Apologies**

### **Moved (Gover/Clarkson)**

1. That apologies from Cr Davies-Colley (NRC), Cr Di Maxwell (FNDC), Mr Richard Booth (Commissioner, KDC) and Ms Nicole Anderson for non-attendance, be received.

### **Carried**

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

The Chairman invited committee members to make declarations item by item as the meeting progressed. There were no declarations of conflict at this point.

Item 14 – a regional update presentation by Fonterra, was provided at this point in the meeting.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 5 December 2012 A294935**

The Chairman noted this was the first formal meeting for Alan Clarkson and he welcomed him to the committee as the farming community representative.

### **Moved (Rossiter/Christie)**

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Management Committee held on 5 December 2012 be confirmed.

### **Carried**

### **2. Waioira Northland Water progress – December 2012 – 11 February 2013 Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 11 February 2013. A294939**

### **Moved (Rossiter/Jenkins)**

1. That the report Waioira Northland Water progress by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 11 February 2013, be received.

### **Carried**

### **3. River Values Assessment System (RiVAS)** **Report from Darryl Jones, Economist dated 7 February 2013.** **A295719**

Darryl Jones provided some slides to illustrate the report, which assisted the committee in its understanding of the values assessment tool being proposed for use to assist the Waioira Northland Water – NPS Freshwater Management implementation project. The report led to considerable debate, notably regarding the make-up of an expert panel, and concerns that economic values should not be overlooked. Tangata whenua values were also raised and the potential for developing methodology within the region to assess this value was discussed.

In response to the committee's concerns regarding expert panel selection, the wording of the report's recommendation (2) was amended. The amendment would allow for the three assessments to be undertaken, using the criteria as stated on a trial basis.

#### **Moved (Carr/Jenkins)**

1. That the report River Value Assessment System (RiVAS), by Darryl Jones, Economist, and dated 7 February 2013, be received.
2. That the committee recommends to council that the criteria for selecting the Northland regional expert panel members be trialled.

**Carried**

### **4. Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Kai Iwi Lakes and Waipoua River** **Report from Ben Tait, Policy Analyst dated 7 February 2013.** **A284228**

#### **Moved (Rossiter/Clarkson)**

1. That the report Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Kai Iwi Lakes and Waipoua River by Ben Tait, Policy Analyst and dated 7 February 2013 be received.

**Carried**

### **5. Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Addition of Other Outstanding Lakes** **Report from Ben Tait, Policy Analyst dated 7 February 2013.** **A284950**

Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Officer, gave a presentation supporting the agenda item. Twelve lakes have been identified by NIWA as "Outstanding" from the region's 400-plus lakes, and all of these 12 are coastal dune lakes. The presentation provided a description of these lakes and their outstanding values.

**Moved (Hunt/Jenkins)**

1. That the Northland's Outstanding Waterbodies: Addition of Other Outstanding Lakes by Ben Tait, Policy Analyst, and dated 7 February 2013, be received.
2. That the committee endorses the following additional lakes as "outstanding freshwater bodies" for the purposes of progressing the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011: Morehurehu, Wahakari, Waihopo, Waiporohita, Ngatu, Humuhumu, Mokero, Rotokawau (Pouto), and Kanono.
3. That staff reports to the committee in July on the development of catchment descriptions for the outstanding lakes.

**Carried**

**6. Wetlands Update**

**Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director; and James Griffin, Policy Analyst dated 1 February 2013.  
A277591**

Members of the committee considered that due to the absence of Cr Tony Davies-Colley, a primary advocate for changing and improving wetland management, consideration of the report should be postponed until the March meeting.

**Moved (Carr/Rossiter)**

1. That the report Wetland Update by James Griffin, Policy Analyst and dated 1 February 2013, be left on the table, to be considered at the committee meeting on 26 March 2013.

**Carried**

**7. Doubtless Bay Catchment Management**

**Report by Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 7 February 2013.  
A78988**

**Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)**

1. That the report Doubtless Bay Catchment Management by Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 7 February 2013 be received.
2. That a Doubtless Bay catchment working group be established, comprising representatives of NRC Environmental Management Committee, FNDC and catchment stakeholders, to prioritise and guide water management activities in the catchment.
3. That a Terms of Reference and membership list be drafted for consideration by the committee in March.

**Carried**

## **8. Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated)**

**Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes dated 7 February 2013.**

**A296571**

Further verbal updates were provided by Tess Dacre on progress on two of the FNDC wastewater treatment plants; Hihi, where equipment was now on site; and Ahipara, where a further extension to consent processing time has been requested to allow FNDC time to provide details on proposed upgrades to submitters.

### **Moved (Jenkins/Hunt)**

1. That the report Community wastewater treatment plant discharges – current compliance status (updated) from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 7 February 2013 be received.

### **Carried**

Cr Graeme Ramsey left the meeting at the start of the following agenda item, at 11:26am.

## **9. Farm Dairy Effluent – report on monitoring 2012/13 season**

**Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes dated 4 February 2013.**

**A295544**

Terence Brocx was invited to comment on the report. He noted the monitoring variances between regions and different standards that were applied – for instance in Taranaki half of the farms do not have any storage facility for farm dairy effluent. He commended the way in which Northland farms were monitored and believed that if other regions monitored at the same rigorous standard, the national results would be very different.

### **Moved (Brown/Blunden)**

1. That the report Farm Dairy Effluent – report on monitoring 2012/13 season from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 4 February 2013 be received.

### **Carried**

## **10. Report on Environmental Monitoring for the period 19 November 2012 – 31 January 2013**

**Report by Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager dated 5 February 2013.**

**A295743**

### **Moved (Christie/Rossiter)**

1. That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 19 November 2012 – 31 January 2013 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, be received.

### **Carried**

## **11. River Management Update**

**Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager dated 4 February 2013.  
A295764**

Slides showing river works that have been undertaken, and detail regarding Kotuku Street detention dam were provided by Joseph Camuso and Bruce Howse. It was noted that applications for consents for the Kotuku dam works have now been lodged.

### **Moved (Rossiter/Jenkins)**

1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager and dated 4 February 2013, be received.
2. That the minutes from the Kaihu River Management Liaison Committee, 30 January 2013, be received.

**Carried**

## **12. Update on Biosecurity responses: Kiwifruit Psu-V, Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback**

**Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated  
4 February 2013.  
A279676**

Mr Chris Jenkins declared a conflict of interest with recommendation (3) of the report and therefore refrained from any discussion or voting on this item, apart from advising that a considerable portion of kauri forest was on land not administered by DOC, notably Māori land.

Don Mckenzie provided slides to illustrate the ongoing work being undertaken in the location and eradication of the marine pest Mediterranean fanworm.

### **Moved (Carr/Hunt)**

1. That the report, Update on Biosecurity Responses: Kiwifruit Psu-V, Mediterranean fanworm, Kauri dieback, by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and dated 4 February 2013, be received.
2. That the committee supports the use of \$150,000 from unspent and unassigned site-led pest control budget on the ongoing survey and eradication of Mediterranean fanworm.
3. That the Committee Chairperson liaise with Auckland Council and other regional council stakeholders with the aim of preparing a joint letter to the Minister of Primary Industries, emphasising the importance of the joint agency response to Kauri Dieback and the need for continued government funding of essential research and response operations on DOC administered land.

**Carried**



### **13. Climate and Water Resources – update**

**Report by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programme Manager  
dated 7 February 2013.  
A296731**

#### **Moved (Rossiter/Jenkins)**

1. That the report Climate and Water Resources – update by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programmer Manager dated 7 February 2013 be received.

**Carried**

### **14. Fonterra's Sustainability Roadshow - introduction**

The order of agenda items was adjusted and this item from Fonterra was received first.

The presentation was led by Carolyn Mortland, General Manager Environmental Policy with Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd, supported by Nuala Platts, Team Leader Sustainable Dairying and Terence Brocx, Shareholder Councillor. The presentation was given as a lead-in to a series of roadshow events promoting sustainable dairying to the farming community nationally, commencing in March. Fonterra undertakes to report its progress back to councils.

The presentation provided an overview of the programmes Fonterra has in place which support sustainable dairying; "Supply Fonterra". There are three elements to this; Effluent Management (previously Every Farm, Every Year), Waterway Management and Nitrogen Management. Sustainable Dairying Advisors assist in taking these programmes to the farmer.

Also included in the presentation was an update of Fonterra's involvement and contribution to the region, notably the considerable economic contribution which provided the region in excess of \$500 million in 2011/12. Fonterra's "Milk for Schools" has been successfully piloted in Northland and will now be rolled out to other regions commencing in Southland.

Following a period of question time, the Chairman acknowledged the dairying industry's considerable economic contribution to Northland and noted the development of a strong relationship being built with the industry (DairyNZ).

#### **Moved (Carr/Rossiter)**

1. That the committee acknowledges and records its appreciation of Fonterra and representatives for their attendance and presentation/discussions at the meeting.

**Carried**

### **Conclusion**

The meeting closed at 12:08pm.

**ISSUE:**    **Item left on the table from previous committee meeting 19 February 2013: Wetlands Update**

**ID:**        A303764

**To:**         Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:**      Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary

**Date:**        4 March 2013

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The committee is now asked to consider the item left on the table from the previous meeting; Wetlands Update.

The report is **attached** for committee members' ease of reference. Please note however the Wildlands consultants report as referred to in the paper has not been redistributed.

**ISSUE: Wetlands Update**

**ID:** A277591

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 19 February 2013

**From:** Tony Phipps, Operations Director; and James Griffin, Policy Analyst

**Date:** 1 February 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with a progress report on addressing issues surrounding wetlands. Included is a description of the constructed wetlands register and guidelines for processing resource consents involving wetlands.

**Normal Operations**



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**Report:**

Reports were presented to the Environmental Management Committee in August and December 2012 providing an overview of the current approach to wetland management in the Regional Water and Soil Plan (RWSP). The December report identified several issues arising from the current approach and presented options to address these. It was resolved to:

1. Develop non-regulatory guidance on wetlands and a register of constructed wetlands; and
2. Develop wetlands related plan changes at the same time as other plan changes driven by the RPS and NPS Freshwater are developed consultation with the Environmental Management Committee and the Regional Policy Committee.

Progress on item one above is detailed in this report.

**Wetland Guidelines**

Council commissioned a report from Wildlands Consultants Ltd to assist in the identification and assessment of wetlands (**Attachment 1**: 'Report on wetland guidelines for the Northland region' – circulated with agenda papers to committee members only<sup>1</sup>). The Wildlands report includes guidelines on identification of various types of wetlands using descriptions of key characteristics. It also provides a useful comparison of wetland provisions in other regional plans and findings in case law. Importantly, the Wildlands report provides clear guidance on hydrological characteristics of the different indigenous wetland types and the various types of wetland can be considered to be significant indigenous wetlands.

The Wildlands report concludes with recommended changes to the definition used in the RWSP and principles to assist in determining significance. A key recommendation is that the minimum size for an indigenous wetland should be increased from 50m<sup>2</sup> to 0.1ha (1000m<sup>2</sup>). Interestingly Wildlands do not recommend the groundwater conditions be removed from the definition.

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<sup>1</sup> The Wildlands report can be viewed at [www.nrc.govt.nz/EMCagendas](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/EMCagendas)

While the Wildlands recommendations are useful, amending the RWSP definition requires a plan change. Such a plan change is better addressed in association with other changes driven by the NPS Freshwater and Regional Policy Statement as per the previous resolution. Staff also consider a size threshold is more appropriately used to determine significance (rather than whether a wetland is indigenous or not). A thorough review of the wetland definition and provisions is recommended at the time these plan changes are progressed.

In the meantime however, the guidelines will be of real value in interpreting the Regional Water and Soil Plan for Northland (RWSP) Appendix 13B in relation to wetlands. Appendix 13B provides the criteria for identification of significant indigenous wetlands. It will also assist in assessing degree of significance and potential sensitivity to adverse effects for the purposes of consent processing.

In other words while the RWSP definition of significant indigenous wetlands and disturbance rules still apply, the guideline can be used to more accurately identify:

- The significance of a particular indigenous wetland
- The nature of adverse effects that can be considered appropriate
- Whether consent can be granted
- Determine where control is required via consent conditions.

Therefore, while an activity may still trigger the RWSP definition of significant indigenous wetland and associated disturbance rules, the guideline can be used to inform the resource consent assessment. For example, the Wildlands report can be used to state with confidence that an indigenous wetland of less than 1000m<sup>2</sup> is unlikely to be a significant indigenous wetland.

The Wildlands report, while useful for those with technical expertise, is not user friendly for the lay person. Staff will continue to develop a user friendly wetland guide, building on the Wildlands report and the material in the Forestry Guidelines. This would include a simplified version of the flow chart used to apply the RWSP definitions (Figure 2: Wildlands report). It would also include guidance on distinguishing between constructed and naturally occurring wetlands. Staff will update the committee on progress with the wetlands guideline by March.

### **Constructed Wetlands Register**

The objective of establishing this register was raised in previous reports. The key reasons for having a register are:

- Current rules distinguish between wetlands constructed for various purposes (e.g. stormwater or effluent management) and those that are natural, and then place greater control over natural wetlands
- Council has few records or data on constructed wetlands as resource consent is often not necessary
- It can be difficult to establish that a wetland has been artificially constructed and once the hydrology is in place, wetland vegetation colonises. Therefore without a register, there may be little to distinguish constructed wetlands from naturally formed wetlands.
- In the absence of such certainty, property owners may be discouraged from wetland construction.

- By enabling parties to register constructed wetlands, they gain confidence that in the future such wetlands can be clearly identified so that an exemption from planning provisions relating to natural wetlands applies.

An existing council wetland database has been modified to include a “constructed wetland” field that will form the register. The register will record the property details, the purpose and / or manner in which the wetland has been created and other information such as a plan of the wetland, details of the site visit and any other supporting information. Once registered this would be confirmed in writing to the landowner and would confirm exemption from indigenous wetland rules.

Confirmation the wetland has been constructed is to be provided by way of:

- Documented evidence that the indigenous wetland forms part of an effluent or stormwater management or treatment system (e.g resource consent records or stormwater management plans); and / or
- A site visit by staff that confirms the indigenous wetland has formed within an artificial waterbody / watercourse such as constructed water storage facilities and drains.

There remains some uncertainty around ‘induced’ indigenous wetlands (where a wetland has formed as a result of changes in hydrology through roading / tracking and culverts – wetlands forming in forestry are a common example). While such wetlands have not been constructed for a specific purpose, they can be considered to be artificial in many cases given they arise through physical alteration of hydrology through mechanical human modification. This typically requires a case by case judgement and potentially, investigation of soil profiles to confirm the history of the site.

Two other grey areas in identifying wetlands are:

1. Where a wetland reverts over time (e.g. fencing allows a wetland to revert and form an indigenous wetland). In this instance, the wetland has not been purposefully constructed by mechanical change to hydrological conditions and as such the time clause in the definition is the relevant factor, namely; *“Land which was modified prior to 27 October 2001 to the extent that it is no longer ecologically viable”*. Indigenous wetlands of this sort are not proposed to be included in the register, however methods to establish whether this clause is met should be included in the guidelines.
2. As identified in section 6.2.7 of the Wildlands Report, where gumlands extend into sites with soils of extreme infertility that are only very intermittently wet. *“Further work needs to be done to determine whether all gumlands meet the definition of wetland ... and if not, what indicators are most appropriate for determining the boundary between wetland and dryland.”*

Some additional changes are necessary to ensure the register retains compatibility with ‘IRIS’ the core business computer application replacing “Worksmart”, however the register is now essentially live.

### **Far North Top Wetlands mailout**

Feedback from landowners / stakeholders contacted in relation to the Top Wetlands Project has been collated (**Attachment 2**). A total of 369 landowners in the Far North were contacted, while the majority did not respond, 22 expressed support in one form or another.

As a result of the mail out a number of requests to provide further information, confirm mapping and undertake site visits have been received. There has also been interest in council assistance in the form of environment funding (11), pest / weed control advice (8) and legal protection (2). A request to register a constructed wetland was also received. Responses have been directed to the relevant staff to follow up and progress will be reported in due course.

### **Conclusion**

The Wildlands report provides a useful basis for developing a wetlands guide that will include:

- How to define / identify a wetland, indigenous wetland;
- How to define / identify constructed wetlands and how to register these with council;
- Which wetlands are significant and why.

It will also prove useful for processing consents for activities that indigenous wetlands and in drafting conditions of consents. Staff will provide an update on progress on a draft wetland guide in March.

### **Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this issue is considered to be of low significance under Council policy because the report does not seek a decision other than that information be received and it has previously been provided for in the council's Long Term Plan.

### **Recommendation:**

- 
1. That the report Wetland Update by James Griffin, Policy Analyst and dated 1 February 2013, be received.
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## November 2012 Far North Top Wetlands Mailout - Analysis of Landowner Feedback (105 wetlands)

Total Wetlands = 105	Total landowners contacted	Total wetland/landowner boundaries	Total Feedback	Letters Returned	Supportive of project	Not supportive	Partly supportive	Unknown	Mapping errors identified	Disagree area is wetland	Landscape project issues	Need to maintain drains	Extra Info. requested	Site visit requested	Want to work with NRC	Meeting requested	Pest advice requested	Past/current efund	Potential efund wetland	Advice on legal protection requested	Request to register a constructed wetland	Shapefiles for planning purposes requested	No action needed	Want rates relief
<b>Private land</b>	289	295	17	14	11	3	2	1	12	4	3	1	1	8	2	1	5	2	8	1	1			1
<b>Maori land/trusts</b>	66	75	2	8	1			1					2		1			1		1				
<b>Govt and Councils</b>	8	63	2	1	2										2	1	1		1					
<b>Forestry/Farm Companies</b>	6	27	2		2																	2		
<b>Mailout total</b>	369	460	23	23	16	3	2	2	12	4	3	1	3	8	5	2	6	3	9	2	1	2	0	1
<b>Other Far North callers</b>	0	6	6		6								1	3			2		2				2	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	369	466	29	23	22	3	2	2	12	4	3	1	4	11	5	2	8	3	11	2	1	2	2	2

Note: **Private land** is all private landowners and companies. **Maori Land/Trusts** are Maori trusts, trustees, incorporations etc. **Forestry/farm companies** include. Landcorp Farming LTD, Juken New Zealand Ltd, Ngati Hine Forestry Trust. **Govt and Councils** include all government and local government agencies e.g. Department of Conservation, Historic Places Trust, Office of Treaty Settlements. Northland Fish and Game Council, Far North District Council etc. **Other Far North callers** responded because they heard about the mailout via newspaper articles or from neighbours who had received letters

**ISSUE: Waioira Northland Water progress – March 2013**

**ID:** A303508

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Tony Phipps, Operations Director

**Date:** 14 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with Waioira Northland Water and contributing programmes.

**Normal Operations** ☒

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**Background**

As previously reported, Waioira Northland Water is Northland Regional Council's water quality and water management improvement project, encompassing new policy development and linked implementation programmes. It is a priority project for the council and it includes the council's programmes for the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management.

This report is an update on progress with various components of the project. Some individual contributing programmes are the subject of separate reports in this agenda.

**Summary of Progress:**

**Policy development**

The government has this month released its water management reform proposal "freshwater reform 2013 and beyond"<sup>1</sup>, subject to item 4 in this agenda. An initial analysis shows that at a high level the Waioira Northland Water programme has a good level of alignment with the proposals, although there is a lot of detail to come.

The dairy sector has released its national document "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord"<sup>2</sup>, which is also reported on separately (item 5). There are significant synergies and a good level of alignment with Waioira Northland Water and current collaboration with the dairy sector. A theme of the Accord is the development and implementation of regional programmes of action and regional councils are being asked by the dairy sector to become "Friends of the Accord".

At a regional level the Proposed Regional Policy Statement process is approaching submission hearings (April).

Following on from the December report on wetland policy and implementation issues, progress is reported on the development of non-regulatory guidance on wetlands. This matter was carried over from the February Environmental Management Committee meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/water/freshwater-reform-2013/index.html>  
<sup>2</sup> [www.dairynz.co.nz/wateraccord](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/wateraccord)



## **NPS Freshwater Management Implementation:**

### **Use and Values of Water - River Values Assessment System (RiVAS)**

Work is underway to establish dates for the three regional expert panels in order to implement the River Values Assessment System (RiVAS) for swimming, native fish and natural character. It is proposed that these expert panels will meet during the week beginning 20 May, with the intention that the results be presented to the committee at its meeting on 28 May by Professor Ken Hughey, Lincoln University. Professor Hughey is the project leader of RiVAS. These dates are still to be confirmed. As requested at the last committee meeting, a list of the key attributes and associated indicators used for the three RiVAS values being used will be forwarded to the committee separately.

### **Priority Catchments**

Work is continuing on the catchment descriptions.

### **Doubtless Bay Catchment**

Terms of Reference for a catchment working group are proposed – refer Item 7.

### **Waitangi River Catchment**

The NZ Landcare Trust is reporting to this meeting on progress with its “Waitangi River Catchment Farming for the Future...” project. The report contains valuable feedback/farmer perspectives in drivers/motivators for action.

### **Mangere River Catchment**

A Terms of Reference for a collaborative stakeholder group is proposed (Item 6). The proposed form and purpose of the group is strongly aligned to the Land and Water Forum recommendations and government reform proposals. In the meantime, the NRC/DairyNZ collaborative project is collecting more detailed information on water quality, use and ecological values in the catchment.

### **Whangarei Harbour catchments**

NRC and WDC staff met to progress the Whangarei Harbour Water Quality Action Plan implementation programme and wider stakeholder participation. Proposed terms of reference for a catchment group should be reported to the next meeting.

### **Contributing Programmes**

A report on the Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan programme is included in this agenda (item 9)

### **Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The relevant legislation in relation to this issue is the Local Government Act 2002. The information provided in this report and its recommendations are compliant with that legislation. This issue is considered to be of low significance under council policy, because it is in keeping with the council’s overarching programme for NPS implementation adopted in May 2012 as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

### **Recommendation:**

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1. That the report Waioara Northland Water progress by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 20 March 2013, be received.
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**ISSUE: Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond:  
Government's proposals for reform of freshwater  
management**

**ID:** A303918

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Tony Phipps, Operations Director

**Date:** 20 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to alert the committee to the Government's recently released proposals for reform of freshwater management and provide initial comment on alignment with the Waioira Northland Water programmes. It is anticipated that as the reforms are developed there will be additional opportunities for engagement and staff will look for and keep the committee informed accordingly.

**Normal  
Operations**



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**Report:**

The Government has just released its proposal for reform of freshwater management: "Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond". The document can be found at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/water/freshwater-reform-2013/index.html> and a copy is included with committee members' agenda papers. The reforms are based on the government's Fresh Start for Freshwater programme, commenced in 2009, and includes advice sought from the Iwi Leaders' Group and the Land and Water Forum, through a substantial collaborative stakeholder process. The proposed reforms are strongly linked to the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management (2011).

The government has grouped its proposed reform actions into three "key reform areas":

- Planning as a community – immediate reforms and next step reforms
- A National Objectives Framework – immediate reforms and next step reforms
- Managing within quantity and quality limits – immediate reforms and next step reforms.

The proposed actions and relative timeframes are set out in tables on pages 10-12 of the document.

**Process**

The Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond document was released on 9 March 2013, with the government inviting comments on the proposals before 5pm on 8 April 2013.

Despite the fact that the government describes the proposed reforms and their scale as a "once in a generation" opportunity, it has only allowed a month for comment. The only public meeting and hui to be held by MfE in Northland to explain and discuss the reform proposals was held the week of the document's release (15 March).

However, the proposal is to spread the further development and introduction of the reforms over a longer period and include further opportunities for comment, engagement and consultation as well as the formal statutory processes of any bill, NPS or NES stage.

### **Alignment with Waioira Northland Water**

When developing the current and evolving Waioira Northland Water programme the council has taken heed of previously signalled direction of government water reform, including the NPS Freshwater Management and the work and recommendations of the Land and Water Forum. This has resulted in a good degree of alignment.

### **Challenges**

While the proposed reforms undoubtedly include major opportunities for improving freshwater management, there are also some significant risks for communities and councils.

- The reforms document contains a section (page 51) on challenges as the government sees them.
- There are significant challenges for all stakeholders in adapting to more collaborative working arrangements, and many technical, capability, and cost and affordability challenges.
- The reforms propose a lot of national guidance and/or new regulation, and requirements for councils to collect considerable amounts of information.
- The potential costs of implementation of new regulation and national guidance have not been quantified or assigned but are potentially substantial.

### **Future engagement**

Staff will look for and keep the committee informed of progress with these reforms and of opportunities for engagement.

### **Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The relevant legislation in relation to this issue is the Local Government Act 2002. The information provided in this report and its recommendation is compliant with that legislation. This issue is considered to be of low significance under council policy, because it is in keeping with the council's overarching programme for NPS implementation adopted in May 2012 as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

### **Recommendation:**

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1. That the report Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond: Government's proposals for reform of freshwater management by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 20 March 2013, be received.
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**ISSUE: Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector**

**ID:** A303814

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Tony Phipps, Deputy CEO

**Date:** 15 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to seek the endorsement of the committee to become a 'Friend' to the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector". It concludes with the recommendation that the committee recommends to council that council agrees to support the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector" by becoming a "Friend of the Accord".

**Normal Operations**



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**Report:**

**Background**

The national Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG), comprising representatives from the dairy sector, central government, regional councils, iwi and the NZ Fish and Game Council, has developed the Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector (the Water Accord) to build on and succeed the 2003-2013 Dairying and Clean Stream Accord (DCSA).

The purpose of the Water Accord is to enhance the overall performance of dairy farming as it affects freshwater by:

- Committing to good management practices and regulatory compliance for all dairy farmers in New Zealand
- Recording pledges by the dairy sector, with the support of others, to assist and encourage dairy farmers to adopt those good management practices and to monitor and report progress

The Water Accord itself is the dairy sector's commitment to industry self-improvement. It recognises that the dairy sectors actions and expectations do not exist in isolation of other parties. The Water Accord is designed to promote the delivery of better water quality outcomes by forming partnerships and developing a common understanding of the issues and challenges and action needed to improve water quality. It 'replaces' the previously existing DCSA.

The Water Accord was launched in February 2013 and is now out for feedback from farmers and other groups. The aim is for it to be finalised and formally launched in time for the 2013-14 dairy season.

All dairy companies across New Zealand have committed to the Water Accord, and Dairy NZ has also signed the Accord. This is a clear improvement on the DCSA which was a partnership between only Fonterra, central and local government.

DELG are now seeking support from regional councils to the Water Accord through their commitment to become a “Friend of the Accord”.

The Regional Sector Group (RSG) which comprises the Chairs and Mayors of New Zealand’s regional and unitary councils discussed this request from the DELG at their meeting on 30 November 2012. The RSG decided that while as a whole they would support the Water Accord, each council would need to make their own decision as to whether or not they wanted to sign up as a Friend of the Water Accord.

### **Regional Councils and the Water Accord**

Regional Councils as a collective provided feedback and comment on the development of the Water Accord through a sub-group of the Resource Managers Group (RMG) who worked with Water Accord writers, and also via the involvement of two Regional Chief Executives (Bill Bayfield, Canterbury and Bob Laing, Waikato) on the DELG. Regional council involvement notably influenced the purpose and intent of the Water Accord. There was as a result a move away from specific regional council commitments and accountabilities in favour of a move to engaging councils in the development and implementation of regional programmes of action.

The Water Accord has three levels of commitment:

- Accountable partners: Dairy companies and Dairy NZ
- Supporting partners: organisations that make commitments to the outcomes of the Water Accord in support of the accountable partners
- Friend of the Accord: iwi, environmental NGOs and regional councils who are supportive of the purpose of the Water Accord and commit to contribute to its success in the spirit of collaboration.

All regional councils have been asked to formally consider whether or not they will sign up to becoming a Friend of the Accord. By signing up to become a Friend to the Water Accord, the key commitment for regional councils is to engage with the dairy sector in the development and implementation of the regional programmes of action referred to above to

*“identify specific opportunities for coordinated and mutually beneficial action targeted at shared goals”.*

Northland Regional Council and the Environmental Management Committee have already developed productive working relationships with the dairying sector through the Northland Effluent Improvement Project Group and more recently directly with DairyNZ. For example, last month (February 2013) the committee received an update on the Mangere river catchment, where the dairy industry is a major stakeholder in water management and needs and wants to play a major role in developing water quality and use objectives for the catchment and practices that will enable objectives to be met. An initial collaborative stakeholder group for the catchment is being recommended.

Becoming a Friend of the Water Accord is considered generally compatible with Waiora Northland Water and is an example and opportunity to confirm the regional council and committee’s commitment to working in partnership with the dairy industry

### **Key Features of the Water Accord**

The key commitments contained in the Accord relate to:

- Stock exclusion, including permanent fencing from most streams, all lakes, and identified significant wetlands and

- encouragement to exclude stock from smaller streams (where practicable)
- Mandatory stock crossings where cows cross and return more than two per month
- The preparation of riparian planting management plans and completion for planting by 2030
- The supply of information from dairy farmers to respective dairy companies to allow an assessment of nutrient management against other dairy farmers
- A need to comply with regional council effluent and water take rules
- Stronger expectations for new dairy farm conversions

The Water Accord is a more comprehensive document in that the DCSA - which was silent on the issues of riparian planting, water use and management and dairy conversions, etc. The Water Accord also recognises that operating at a catchment scale, with local partnerships, is a necessary requirement to improve the dairy sectors performance. Again, this is an enhancement on the DCSA and fits well with the Waiora Northland Water programme.

The Water Accord itself acknowledges that it is not a substitute for regional councils' statutory policy and regulatory functions. The Water Accord (and its partners) recognise that the Water Accord does not, and cannot, supersede regional policies and rules. It is also recognised the Water Accord is not a water quality objectives setting tool – the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management requires regional councils to undertake this task.

### **Conclusion**

All regional councils have been asked to formally consider whether or not they will sign up to becoming a Friend of the Accord. Friend of the Accord status fits very well with the Waiora Northland Water programmes and current collaborative work with the dairy industry which is overseen by this committee. Given this alignment and that the Accord does not derogate any regionally developed regulation or agreed target, it is recommended that the committee supports the Water Accord and recommends to council that the council should agree to become a "Friend of the Accord".

### **Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002. Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the fit with the Long Term Plan 2012-22 and the council's Waiora Northland Water programme this matter is considered to have low significance.

### **Recommendations:**

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1. That the report Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector by Tony Phipps, Deputy CEO and dated 15 March 2013, be received.
  2. That the committee supports the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector".
  3. That the committee recommends to council that council agree to support the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – A Commitment to New Zealand by the Dairying Sector" and to become a "Friend of the Accord".
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# SUSTAINABLE DAIRYING: WATER ACCORD

A commitment to New Zealand to enhance the overall performance of dairy farming as it effects freshwater through continuous improvement and partnership

## What NZ Expects from Dairying

1. Dairy farms will exclude dairy cattle from significant waterways and significant wetlands.
2. Riparian planting will occur where it would provide a water quality benefit.
3. The crossing of waterways by dairy cows will not result in degradation of those waterways.
4. Dairy farmers will manage Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) loss from dairy farming systems, acknowledge the need to manage within nutrient loss limits and pursue continuous improvement in nutrient use efficiency.
5. Dairy farms will comply with regional council effluent management rules and/or resource consent conditions.
6. Effluent systems installed on dairy farms will be fit for purpose and able to achieve 365-day compliance with applicable rules.
7. Dairy sheds will use no more water for wash down and milk cooling than that necessary to produce hygienic and safe milk.
8. Irrigation systems will be designed and operated to minimise the amount of water needed to meet production objectives.
9. New dairy farms establish and operate using best practice at the outset to minimise potential negative consequences on water values and interests and comply with all relevant plan rules/consent conditions.

## What does that mean for a dairy farmer?

### Mandatory stock exclusion from streams on the milking platform

A permanent fence must be used to exclude dairy cattle from:

- Rivers, streams and springs over 1 metre wide and 30cms deep
- All lakes
- Wetlands (if they are identified by your regional council in its regional plan as being significant)

In addition, farmers are *encouraged* to:

- Exclude stock from all wetlands and smaller streams where practical
- Apply these stock exclusion practices on any land used for grazing dairy cows off the milking platform.

### Mandatory stock crossings

All points on a waterway where cows cross and return more than twice per month must be either bridged or culverted.

### Riparian Planting

All dairy farms must prepare a riparian management plan that sets out where riparian planting is to occur. Planting is to be completed by 2030.

### Nutrient Management

Each year farms must supply their respective dairy company with information that will allow for the modelling (using Overseer) of N loss and the N conversion efficiency and will commit to enhancing N management performance when demonstrated to be in lower performing cohort of peers.

### Effluent Management

All effluent systems must be capable of being compliant with the relevant regional council rules and/or their resource consent.

### Water Use

All farms must:

- Comply with all regional rules controlling water takes.
- Install water meters by the dates required by their respective dairy companies (dates yet to be set).

## What are dairy companies and DairyNZ doing?

All **dairy companies** have committed to the Accord. They all have taken on responsibility for ensuring the on-farm practices specified above occur. How that is done is up to individual companies. Companies will also arrange for nutrient loss modelling, arrange for assessment of effluent systems and set timelines for introduction of water meters.

**DairyNZ** has also signed the Accord. It has committed to develop riparian planting guidelines, develop an audited nutrient management system for use by dairy companies, develop industry capacity in effluent management and a range of similar initiatives to ensure this Accord can be implemented successfully – many in partnership with other industry players and communities.

**ISSUE: Mangere Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Group – subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee - Draft Terms of Reference**

**ID:** A303918

**To:** Environment Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Tony Phipps, Deputy CEO / Operations Director

**Date:** 15 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to present a draft terms of reference for the Mangere Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Group for the committee's consideration. It concludes with the recommendation that the committee confirms the draft terms of reference attached.

**Normal Operations**



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**Report:**

At the February 2013 committee meeting it was agreed that while work with the dairy industry in the Mangere River catchment was underway there remains a need to formally engage stakeholders in this priority catchment around objectives, uses and values and options for improving water quality.

In recognition of the need for communities to come together to decide how to use and manage their freshwater resources and that this decision making process requires a greater understanding of the uses and values involved, staff have proposed a collaborative stakeholder group based on the models being promoted by the Land and Water Forum and the government in its recent publication (March 2013) "Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond". Staff also recommend that if the committee agrees to set up the collaborative stakeholder group as outlined in this report that the group be set up formally as a subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee.

The proposed programme of work to be completed by the Mangere Catchment Group ("the Group") in summary is:

1. Establish objectives, uses and values (e.g. ecosystem health, stock watering, etc) for the catchment
2. Establish desired environmental state (and confirm the current state - does this mean things have to improve and by how much)
3. Determine limits to achieve the desired environmental state
4. Determine the potential management options and activities (regulatory and non-regulatory) to achieve the preferred state
5. Develop good management practices and other non-regulatory tools for maintaining and improving the catchment's freshwater and its management and establish the on the ground costs and benefits of them (which may include trials)



6. Develop an implementation plan and recommendations for
  - a. the Environmental Management Committee to consider / implement as part of regional plan changes and annual and long term planning,
  - b. other relevant parties such as government, industry, community groups, landowners etc to consider / implement.

This process will be iterative and the group will need to determine whether the desired environmental state is achievable, at what cost, and over what timeframe, which may lead to reconsideration of the values or environmental state to be achieved.

This process is aligned with the government's "Freshwater reform 2013 and beyond" description of collaborative processes for implementing the proposed National Objectives Framework (diagram **attached**).

**Rationale for a fully collaborative consensus orientated stakeholder group**

In proposing this model there is an emphasis on:

- getting all users and managers of fresh water in the catchment to play their part in achieving environmental, economic, cultural and social objectives
- enhanced Maori involvement in freshwater planning and decision making
- achieving consensus decision making through collaboration and engagement at the front end of the process, and avoiding litigious and divisive practices later in the process
- sharing science, local knowledge and values, to reduce conflict and incorporate this understanding, including the costs and benefits of options, into freshwater management
- trialling a process that is likely to become formalised (to some degree) in future Resource Management Act reforms and learning early lessons
- establishing how collaborative stakeholder group processes and wider community engagement on freshwater management might work together.

The committee is aware that the challenges and complexities of planning as a community should not be underestimated. There are therefore advantages for the committee's first foray under Waiora Northland Water into alternative planning processes in choosing the Mangere River catchment. It is a small (relatively speaking), relatively homogenous (in terms of land use), catchment where there are already good relationships with some stakeholders, practical improvement programmes in development or already established, and lots of scientific data on the makeup and state of the catchment. It will still, however, require a significant commitment from participants, the committee and the council to make it work.

Councils will remain responsible for preparing resource management plans and plan changes to give effect to the Freshwater NPS (in particular setting freshwater objectives and limits). Work on this will commence during 2013-14 when the council has made decisions on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement and the review of regional plans begins. The collaborative stakeholder group will determine the values we would manage for in these plans and the environmental state that would be achieved (which can be selected from a range of options from maintenance through to various degrees of improvement) based on the local context and community aspirations.

The next step in the plan development process is to determine the potential management options to get us to the locally derived preferred state, and work out the costs and benefits of those options, before final decisions are made. (Once people know the costs and benefits associated with their choices there may be a need for further examination of the objectives, values or states to be achieved.) The Group would develop an implementation programme that would provide regulatory and non-regulatory proposals for land and water management in the catchment, including implementation of the Freshwater NPS. Once completed the Group would recommend to the Environmental Management Committee those regulatory proposals that should be included in the council's (RMA) plan change process. Non-regulatory proposals would also be recommend to council for inclusion in council's Annual / Long Term Plan and/or to other bodies that can best achieve them.

### **Draft Terms of Reference for the Mangere Catchment Group**

The draft terms of reference therefore also heavily focus on the development of good management practices and other non-regulatory tools for maintaining and improving the catchment's freshwater and its management, and establishing the on the ground costs and benefits of these initiatives, which in turn should help all work out the right mix of limits, targets (and timeframes), rules and other management options for achieving the freshwater management objectives of the Group.

Given the close relationship between the purpose and phases of work envisaged for the Group and:

- the regional plan review and plan change process,
- council's annual and long term planning,
- the need for technical and administrative support for the group, and
- the partnership approach being proposed;

it is recommended that the Group be a formal subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee. (The committee has authority under its terms of reference to establish subcommittees.)

It must also be acknowledged that the Mangere River catchment is part of a wider freshwater system that eventually finds its way to the Kaipara Harbour. It will not be sufficient for the Group to find win-win solutions for their catchment, only to undermine downstream objectives and values. The Group will need to be aware of and liaise with the groups working on the wider Kaipara catchment: the Kaipara Harbour Joint Political Committee and the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group. It is likely that this collaborative planning process will be, by its very nature (which aims to maintain and improve freshwater management) iterative and likely to evolve.

The draft terms of reference also include draft engagement and collaborative decision making principles, a preliminary partner and stakeholder analysis, a description of the work and outputs that need to be achieved and preliminary timeframes for their achievement. It also provides for review of the terms of reference, membership and timeframes for outputs.

The draft terms of reference contain specific reference to the role of the Chair of the Group in leading the collaborative decision making process outlined. The draft Terms of Reference provide for the Group to select its own chair and deputy from its membership, as well as recommend additional members should it consider that necessary in order that all significant stakeholders are represented. An alternative would be for the NRC-appointed representative to be the Chair, as is the case for the river liaison committees. The

Environmental Management Committee may think that as this is the first collaborative stakeholder group to be set up under Waiora Northland Water, that the Group would benefit from the support of a facilitator to assist it form consensus decisions, including techniques for collaborative consideration and decision making. The committee could either commit to providing this facilitation at the outset or leave it to the Group to request this support.

### **Funding**

Current NRC practice is to fund administrative and technical (for NRC functions) support for community liaison type sub committees, and other parties cover their own costs. This is the case for the existing river liaison committees. It is being assumed that this practice continue.

### **Conclusion**

The Mangere River Catchment is one of the (1st) priority catchments under the Waiora Northland Water programme (which also implements the Freshwater NPS). It would suit a collaborative stakeholder group, modelled on LAWF and recent government statements, and there are real benefits to be realised in using this approach from the outset. Staff recommend that the Mangere Catchment Group be a formal subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee.

### **Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

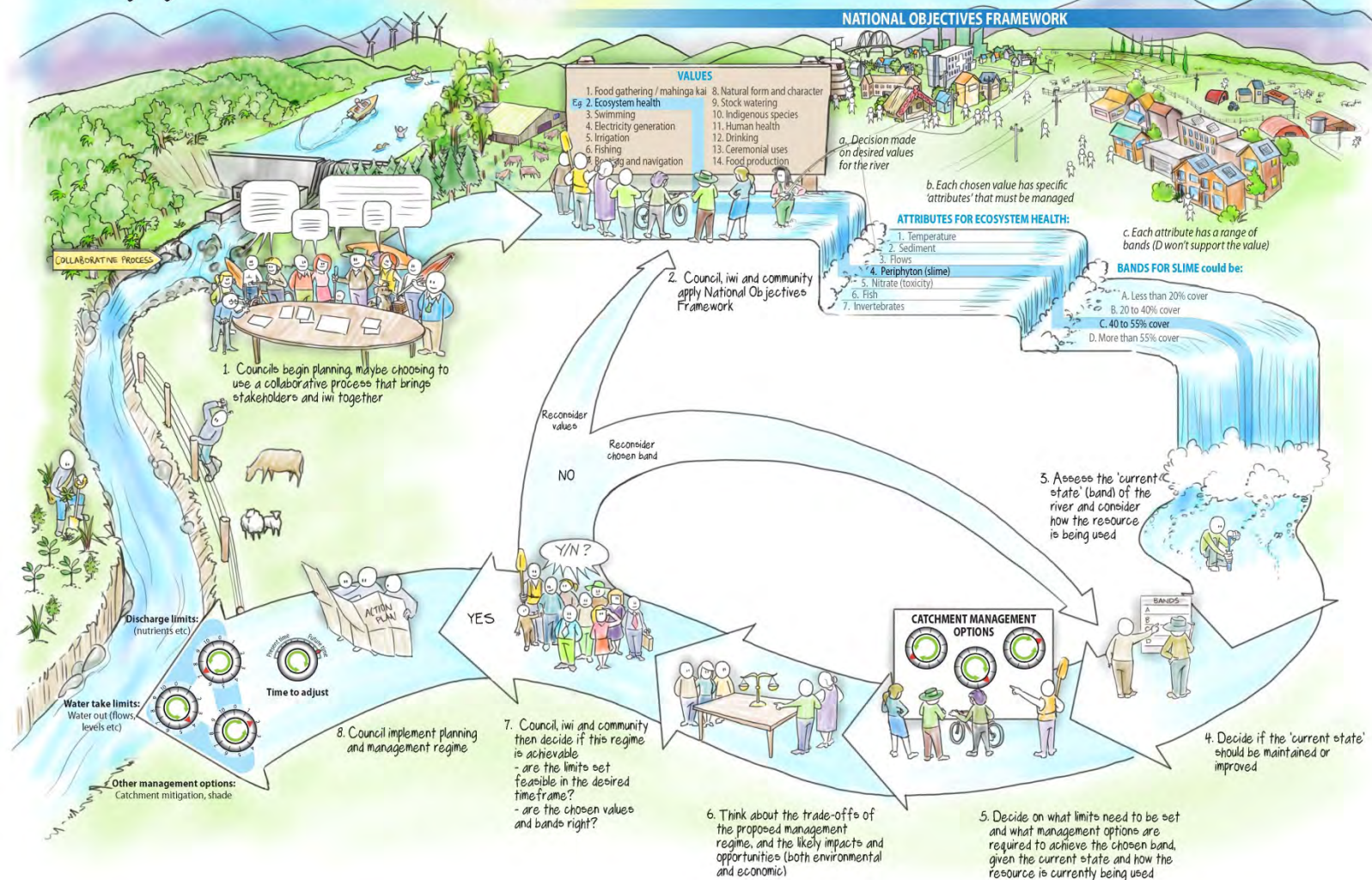
The relevant legislation in relation to this issue is the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991. The information provided in this report and its recommendations are compliant with the decision making requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991. This decision is considered to be of low significance under council policy, because it is in keeping with the council's overarching programme for NPS implementation adopted in May 2012 as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (now called the Waiora Northland Water Programme). The matter of supporting and implementing the recommendations from the Mangere River Catchment Collaborative Stakeholder Group are likely to be of greater significance and will need to be considered separately as the Mangere River Catchment Collaborative Stakeholder Group.

### **Recommendations:**

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1. That the report Mangere Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Group – subcommittee of the Environmental Management Committee – Draft Terms of Reference by Tony Phipps, Operations Director and dated 15 March 2013, be received.
  2. That the committee confirms the draft terms of reference attached, subject to the following additions:
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (being a current member of the Environmental Management Committee) shall be the Northland Regional Council's representative on the Mangere Catchment Group.
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## Managing fresh water in New Zealand



[extract: Ministry for the Environment. 2013. *Freshwater Reform 2013 and beyond*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.]

## **Draft Terms of Reference: Mangere Catchment Group**

- Purpose:**
- To work collaboratively to maintain and improve the state and management of the Mangere River Catchment's freshwater.
  - To work with the Northland Regional Council and its Environmental Management Committee in the Mangere River Catchment to deliver the Waiora Northland Water programme, including the review of the freshwater provisions of the current Water and Soil Plan for Northland to give effect to the Freshwater NPS.
  - To discuss and develop objectives, policies and rules to be included in the Water and Soil Plan for Northland (or other relevant regional plan) and other related actions for recommendation to the Northland Regional Council and others.

The Mangere Catchment lies approximately 12 kilometres west of Whangarei and has a catchment area of approximately 7650ha. The Mangere River is a low-lying, sluggish tributary to the Wairua River, which flows through a mostly intensive agricultural catchment. The river begins as the Mangere Stream, which flows east out of the Pukenui forest near Whangarei. It becomes a river on the flats before joining the Wairoa River just west of Kokopu.

Under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater (Freshwater NPS), councils must set freshwater objectives, and water allocation and water quality limits for all waterbodies in Northland so that the overall quality of freshwater in the region is maintained or improved.

Councils will remain responsible for preparing resource management plans and plan changes to give effect to the Freshwater NPS (in particular setting freshwater objectives and limits). Work on this in Northland will commence during 2013-14 when the Council has made decisions on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement and the review of regional plans begins.

The Mangere River Catchment has been identified as a priority catchment for the setting of objectives and limits by the Northland Regional Council. Limits need to be set in a statutory document (the appropriate statutory document is currently the Water and Soil Plan for Northland, or in future, a combined regional plan).

The collaborative stakeholder group will determine the values for management of the Mangere River Catchment to be included in these plans and the environmental state to be achieved (which can be selected from a range of options from maintenance through to various degrees of improvement) based on the local context and community aspirations.

The collaborative stakeholder group will develop regulatory (e.g. limits, policies and rules) as well as non-regulatory management options to achieve the agreed environmental objectives with the aim of providing the Environmental Management Committee (and the Northland Regional Council) with consensus recommendations

**Attachment to Item 6**

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for a plan change to the Water and Soil Plan for Northland and an agreed plan for implementing the non-regulatory management options.

The Environmental Management Committee will implement the recommendations of the Mangere Catchment Group where they are able to do so and will promote the recommendations that require Northland Regional Council or other committee, or stakeholder endorsement. To facilitate this occurring the recommendations from the Mangere Catchment Group must also be consistent with the Resource Management Act 1991, relevant National Policy Statements and Environmental Standards, the Regional Policy Statement, the Local Government Act 2002 and the Northland Regional Council's Long Term Plan.

**Establishment:** The Mangere Catchment Group is established as a subcommittee of the Northland Regional Council Environmental Management Committee under the Local Government Act 2002.

**Chair:** The Group will select a Chair and Deputy Chair from amongst its members.

**Quorum:** A quorum shall include the Chair or Deputy Chair and a total of at least 50% of the normal membership.

**Membership:** Members have been selected to reflect the broad interests in water management in the Mangere River Catchment and to provide a cross-section of values, understanding and perspectives. It is expected that members will engage with their organisations and wider networks to share information and get feedback on the matters being considered.

One nominated Northland Regional Council representative who is a NRC Councillor and a member of the Environmental Management Committee

One Whangarei District Council representatives (elected member or staff)

Two members nominated by and representative of Te Rūnanga a Iwi o Ngāpuhi and hapu with interests in the catchment.

Two members nominated by dairy farmers/industry in the catchment.

One member nominated by other (non-dairy) farming interests in the catchment

One member nominated by the Pukenui Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust

One member nominated by public process to represent residents of the catchment not otherwise represented.

Members are generally mandated sector or group representatives. Where members have not been given a mandate from their sector or interest group they will participate as individuals and are expected to convey ideas and perspectives from their wider networks.

**Attachment to Item 6**

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Councillors and council staff have particular statutory (and non-statutory) responsibilities outside of the Mangere Catchment Group, but within the group they have the same rights and responsibilities as all other members. In addition to the particular knowledge, expertise and perspectives, they will represent the interests of the wider district and regional communities.

To assist the Mangere Catchment Group to make satisfactory progress and build consensus, members are expected to attend all meetings. Substitutes are discouraged and must be approved by the Chair in advance. (If a meeting is missed, or if a substitute does participate, members will be expected to catch up and to resist the temptation to re-litigate matters that have been agreed in their absence.)

Between meetings members are expected to interact with their nominating body / wider networks to obtain feedback on options being discussed.

As the group is undertaking a collaborative exercise based on consensus decision-making, at the end of the process, members will be asked to declare whether they can support the outputs and recommendations to the Environmental Management Committee that have been produced by the process and will be expected to promote them to their organisations and networks. Members will also be asked whether their nominating organisations / organisations they represent (where appropriate) will formally endorse the consensus agreement.

Where it becomes known that an important sector, interest or perspective is not represented on the Mangere Catchment Group, the Environmental Management Committee will consider adding another member, taking into account their interest/perspective, their availability and the need to keep the group to a size that can work effectively together.

The Mangere Catchment Group may establish working groups to advance work on specific topics and may request research and expert advice from, but not limited to, the Northland Regional Council.

Collaborative  
decision making:

Collaborative decision making is not consultation. A credible commitment to the collaborative process by the individuals and organisations involved is required. Decisions need to be made by consensus (near consensus) not majority rule.

Consensus:

Consensus is defined as every member of the Mangere Catchment Group agreeing that they can accept the agreement / recommendation.

Principles of participation:

To this end all members will:

- Participate cooperatively and civilly.
- Be committed to achieving a balanced – environmentally, economically, culturally and community – management regime for the catchment and Northland's freshwater.
- Commit to open, honest and collaborative discussions and decision making.
- Chatham House Rules will be followed. Members and participants in working groups are free to discuss matters with other parties – but not the media – but won't attribute people to the options or opinions discussed.
- Contributions are made without prejudice – i.e. nothing said within the group may be used in subsequent planning or legal processes except for any recommendations or agreements reached by the group.
- Members are expected to show respect for other views and avoid promoting discord within the group.
- Any public statements by the group must be agreed by the group and made through an agreed spokesperson. (This also applies to those technical advisors, staff and others who attend the meetings in support of the Mangere Catchment Group.
- Support decisions and recommendations reached by consensus by the group in subsequent public discussion, including appearing at any subsequent hearing if requested.

The Chair of the Group / Facilitator will:

- Ensure a fair and equitable group process
- Foster an atmosphere of respect, open-mindedness and group learning
- Design an enjoyable and productive process to enable the group to achieve its task
- Facilitate input from all members of the group so that every voice is heard
- Provide or acquire guidance on collaborative decision making techniques, including constructive ways to voice disagreement and negotiate potential outcomes.



**Attachment to Item 6**

Page 10 of 10

**Key Tasks:**

1. Establish objectives, uses and values (e.g. ecosystem health, stock watering, etc) for the catchment.
2. Establish desired environmental state (and confirm the current state - does this mean things have to improve and by how much).
3. Determine freshwater limits to achieve the desired environmental state (both quality and quantity).
4. Determine the potential policy and management options (regulatory and non-regulatory) to achieve the preferred state.
5. Develop good management practices and other non-regulatory tools for maintaining and improving the catchment's freshwater and its management and establish the on the ground costs and benefits of them (which may include trials).
6. Develop an implementation plan and recommendations (including a draft plan change) for:
  - a. the Environmental Management Committee to consider / implement / recommend to the Northland Regional Council as part of regional plan changes and annual and long term planning
  - b. other relevant parties such as government, industry, community groups, landowners etc to consider / implement.

In completing the tasks the Mangere Catchment Group will:

- Consult with relevant stakeholders throughout the development of the implementation plan and recommendations.
- Receive, review and consider technical material as well as consultation and engagement feedback and results.

**Key outputs and timeframes:**

1. Report documenting the values, objectives, desired environmental state (and freshwater limits to achieve it), and agreed management options for the catchment [initially suggest April 2014].
2. A draft plan change ready for notification incorporating any preferred / agreed management responses.

**Technical advice:**

The Mangere Catchment Group will be supported by a technical group made up of technical advisors across a range of specialisms relevant to the catchment including: environmental science, matauranga Maori and Maori values, farm systems and land management, economics and social science.

NRC shall provide secretariat and administrative support, as well as technical support in line with NRC functions and work programmes.

**ISSUE: Doubtless Bay Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference**

**ID:** A303875

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Tony Phipps, Operations Director

**Date:** 15 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to present a draft terms of reference for the Doubtless Bay Working Group for the committee's consideration. It concludes with the recommendation that the committee confirms the draft terms of reference attached.

**Normal Operations**



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**Report:**

The Environmental Management Committee received a report last month (February 2013) on the Doubtless Bay catchment. As a result of that report, the committee resolved to establish the Doubtless Bay catchment working group, comprising representatives of the committee, Far North District Council and catchment stakeholders, to prioritise and guide water management activities in the catchment. (The focus of the groups is to guide practical actions rather than the formal priority catchment process of developing new catchment specific objectives and policy.)

**Attached** is a draft Terms of Reference for the working group for the committee's consideration.

It is recommended that the chairperson of the group should be an Environmental Management Committee member, initially the NRC or FNDC representative. It is also recommended that the Northland Regional Council representative (who is a member of the Environmental Management Committee) should be identified and confirmed at the committee's March 2013 meeting, and that they and the nominated councillor from the Far North District Council work with Northland Regional Council's Kaitia Area Manager to set up the first meeting of the working group, including inviting the other nominating bodies to identify their representatives.

The Department of Conservation is a large landowner in the catchment and provision for their membership, alongside farming, forestry and community interests identified at early meetings between Northland Regional Council and the Far North District Council has been included in the draft Terms of Reference.

While it is suggested that the working group may propose additional formal members to the Environmental Management Committee, it is suggested that the working group has flexibility to involve others in the workstreams that the group develops as appropriate. Those people and groups would not need to be formal members.

**Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The relevant legislation in relation to this issue is the Local Government Act 2002. The information provided in this report and its recommendations are compliant with that legislation. This issue is considered to be of low significance under council policy, because it is in keeping with the council's overarching programme for NPS implementation adopted in May 2012 as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (now called the Waiora Northland Water Programme).

**Recommendations:**

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1. That the report "Doubtless Bay Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference" by Tony Phipps, Deputy CEO / Operations Director and dated 15 March 2013, be received.
  2. That the committee confirms the draft terms of reference attached, subject to the following additions:
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (being a current member of the Environmental Management Committee) shall be the Northland Regional Council's representative on the Working Group.
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## **Draft Terms of Reference – Doubtless Bay Working Group**

Vision:	Better fresh and coastal water quality in the Doubtless Bay Catchment through sustainable, practical and cost effective solutions that meet the needs of stakeholders and communities
Purpose:	To prioritise and guide water management (and associated land management) activities in the Doubtless Bay catchment to achieve the vision.
Reporting to:	The Environmental Management Committee of the Northland Regional Council
Status:	Working group, appointed by the Environmental Management Committee of the Northland Regional Council
Composition:	<p>One Northland Regional Councillor (who is a member of that council's Environmental Management Committee) as a representative of the Northland Regional Council.</p> <p>The Northland Regional Council Area Manager Kaitiaki Area Office - Peter Wiessing inaugural member.</p> <p>One Far North District Councillor as a representative of the Far North District Council Councillor.</p> <p>One staff member of and nominated by the Far North District Council with stormwater and wastewater management knowledge.</p> <p>One representative nominated by Te Runanga A Iwi o Ngati Kahu and one representative nominated by Te Runanga O Whaingaroa.</p> <p>One representative nominated by the Doubtless Bay promotion Inc [or one representative of the tourism sector, nominated by Northland Inc.]</p> <p>Two farming representatives, one representing dairy farming and one representing sheep and beef farming.</p> <p>One forestry representative nominated by forestry interests in the catchment.</p> <p>Up to two representatives of the ratepayers of the Doubtless Bay catchment nominated by the Te Hiku Community Board.</p> <p>Two community group representatives with an interest in water quality within the catchment, one nominated by the Doubtless Bay Main Protection Group and one nominated by the Tokarau Community Catchment Project.</p>

**Attachment to Item 7**

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One representative nominated by the Department of Conservation.

And any other person that the Environmental Management Committee may from time to time appoint to the Working Group because of their particular skills or knowledge

The Working Group may propose additional formal members to the Environmental Management Committee for consideration.

The Working Group may involve others in the workstreams that the group develops as appropriate. Those individuals or stakeholders do not need to be formal members of the Working Group itself.

- Chairperson: The Chairperson shall at all times be a member of the Northland Regional Council Environmental Management Committee. The inaugural Chairperson is Far North District Councillor, Di Maxwell.
- Quorum: Six, at least one of whom must be a member of the Environmental Management Committee.
- Meeting frequency: As required but not less than twice a year.
- Meeting procedures: To be established by the Working Party. Minutes (and any recommendations) from the working party meetings will be reported to the Environmental Management Committee following each Working Party meeting.
- Meeting secretariat: Northland Regional Council, though its Kaitaia Area office, will provide secretariat services for meetings as required. This arrangement will be reviewed annually.
- Functions: The Working Group is an advisory group and has no delegated authority or specific powers. Its functions are:
1. To provide a stakeholder forum for discussion and improve understanding of fresh and coastal water management issues and mutual understanding of stakeholder views.
  2. To facilitate the sharing of information between group members, their respective organisations and the community.
  3. To provide a stakeholder forum for the development and prioritisation of water management (and associated land management) activities in the Doubtless Bay catchment to achieve better fresh and coastal water quality.
  4. To promote and advocate prioritized actions to those in positions that can make them happen e.g. recommendations to the Environmental Management

**Attachment to Item 7**

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Committee, councils, landowners and managers,  
government, industry groups.

The following catchment issues are a priority for the working group:

- Land stability and soil erosion
- Stormwater & wastewater management
- On-going urban development
- Estuary/harbour and beach stream water quality
- Urban area water supply – groundwater aquifer management

**ISSUE: Waitangi River Catchment – NZ Landcare Trust**

**ID:** A303612

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary

**Date:** 14 March 2013

**Normal Operations** ☒

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**Report:**

Jon Hampson, NZ Landcare Trust, will provide a progress update (presentation) on its catchment management initiative, Waitangi River Catchment: Farming for the Future. The Waitangi River catchment is currently on the NRC list of catchments to be given a high priority for improving water quality.

The project has nearly completed its first year (three years in all) with key milestones being the formulation of the steering group, an initial survey of catchment farmers, two catchment meetings (refer **attached** reports) and the completion of several farm environmental plans. The project has also realised on the ground improvements for several farms ranging from stock exclusion fencing to animal pest control. Planning for year two of the project is currently underway.

**Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's Long Term Plan and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this issue is considered to be of low significance under Council policy because the report does not seek a decision other than that information be received.

**Recommendation:**

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1. That the report on Waitangi River Catchment – NZ Landcare Trust by Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary on behalf of Jon Hampson, dated 14 March 2013 be received.
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**ISSUE: Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan Project Update**

**ID:** A303361

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Lorna Douglas, Land Management Advisor, and Bob Cathcart, Land Management Specialist

**Date:** 13 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with:

1. a progress report on the Farm Water Quality Management Plan programme; and
2. an example of a Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan similar to those being prepared on request from Northland farmers.

It concludes with the recommendation that the report is received.

**Normal Operations**



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**Report:**

**Background**

In its Annual Plan 2012/13 the Council adopted a policy of promoting sustainable land management and reducing the impact of land use on water quality within the context of Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans (FWQIPs). Three new Land Management Advisor (LMA) positions were created to deliver this programme and, following the loss of one of the existing staff to Fonterra, four new advisors were employed during October-November 2012.

Given the number of farms in Northland and the number of rivers for which water management plans must be prepared under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011, it was decided to initially target three priority river catchments – Whangarei Harbour, Mangere Stream and Waitangi River. Two LMAs were assigned to each priority catchment, with these staff and other LMAs also providing advice over the rest of the region.

“Targeting” catchments does not mean that plans will not be prepared for farms in other catchments but that within the target catchments staff are actively promoting FWQIPs. In support of Fonterra’s programme of requiring landowners to fence streams, install culverts, prevent runoff from races into streams and to fence off regionally significant wetlands, letters were sent out in December 2012, first to dairy farmers. The letter briefly explained the service the Council can provide and how; should the landowner so request, a FWQIP could be prepared for their property. This letter has been followed up by a phone call.

**Progress**

Because all Environment Fund grants are now being made only within the context of FWQIPs, landowners with projects approved before the FWQIP process began, are now being invited to have a FWQIP completed for their entire property.

As at 13 March 2013, 12 FWQIPs have been completed within the targeted catchments, 20 are being prepared and visits are planned for another 10 properties.

Outside of the targeted areas, 18 plans have been completed, 27 are being prepared and 23 visits have been arranged.

In addition, comprehensive Land Use Capability maps and recommended works plans have been prepared for Landcorp stations at Takakuri, Titoki and Omamari, all outside of targeted catchments. Similarly, a comprehensive plan has been prepared for Hayes Farm, Kaeo, the Beef and Lamb NZ Far North monitor farm, and plans are being made for three IKHMG "Flagship Farms" within the Kaipara Harbour catchment.

### **Preparing a FWQIP**

The Council's Land Management Advisors work with the land owner/manager to develop and document a simple plan of action for the implementation of good practice measures, measures that are known to reduce the contamination of water by sediment, nutrients and pathogens. These measures may include:

- fencing streams, drains and wetlands to control stock access;
- protecting existing wetlands or creating new ones to trap and filter sediment and nutrient runoff;
- planting trees (poplars and willows) to control soil erosion on pastoral land;
- improving farm tracks and races and their associated stream crossings to control erosion and prevent direct runoff into streams;
- converting the use of the most erosion-prone land to forestry, either exotic production forest or native bush; and
- any other measures that will help to improve water quality.

One of the sources of sediment affecting water quality is runoff from grazed land. This loss, generally as very fine (colloidal) material, occurs even when there is good pasture cover but is exacerbated by pugging during winter and spring. Because a high proportion of the phosphate contamination of water in Northland is phosphate bound to soil clay particles, measures that keep soil in situ in the paddock benefits both the farmer and the stream environment. The FWQIP may therefore discuss measures to improve pasture cover, such as longer grazing rotations, improved pasture quality and the like.

A draft FWQIP is prepared and, after discussion with the farmer and any amendments, the completed plan, with works/measures listed in order of priority, is sent to the farmer.

The plan is an advisory document only and is not binding on the farmer. The plan will identify measures that may be eligible for assistance under the Council's Environment Fund should the farmer wish to apply for assistance.

### **Plan Presentation**

The plan comprises an aerial photograph on which recommended works are identified by different colours denoting an order of priority. The accompanying text is brief but additional data can be appended should the farmer/land owner so request.

Pamphlets on wetland management, poplar and willow planting and the like are included where relevant, as are copies of published papers or other material relevant to the particular plan.

A more detailed soil and/or land use capability map, which can be used by other consultants or fertiliser company representatives to prepare more accurate development plans and nutrient management plans, can be included if the farmer requests.

The plan is presented to the farmer in a council folder. It is designed to complement and be used with material produced by other consultants, e.g. Dairy NZ, Beef and Lamb New Zealand, or other primary industry organisations.

### **Example of a FWQIP - Flyger Road Properties**

To facilitate the construction of the railway link between Oakleigh and Marsden Point, the council purchased three adjoining properties, with a combined area of approximately 90 hectares, at the end of Flyger Road, Mata.

Almost 24% of the block is old alluvial terraces, another 18% also flat land but subject to flooding or permanently high watertable, almost 49% rolling to steep greywacke hill country and the balance is very steep greywacke hill country.

While the former boundaries between the three blocks and some of the internal fences are traditional post and batten fences, and there are some light deer fences, the majority of the subdivision is by three wire electric fences. Because the farm is currently being grazed with dairy calves and a few bulls, and because stock water is not reticulated to all paddocks, the electric fences are not powered. This has resulted in some fences being damaged by stock and being in need of repair.

Further subdivision is required as some of the paddocks are too large to effectively control grazing. Stock also have access to streams throughout the property and, because of the drought, are grazing any aquatic weeds and trampling the stream and drain channels and banks. The FWQIP recommends fencing to exclude stock from streams.

The plan also recommends fencing areas or regenerating bush in erosion-prone gully heads. These steep areas have reverted to scrub and bush because they are too steep to allow effective grazing.

The property has been hit by the edge of a heavy rainfall event some time in the last two or three years and has suffered some slipping. The incidence and severity of this form of erosion can be reduced by strategically planting poplars, open spaced, across areas at risk of slipping and onto the adjoining stable land. This form of planting is recommended in the plan.

Only part of the property has stock water reticulated to troughs. Further reticulation will be required with closer subdivision and as the streams are fenced. The property lends itself to water being pumped to a tank on a high point near the airstrip and then fed by gravity throughout the farm.

**Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's Long Term Plan and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this issue is considered to be of low significance under Council policy because the report does not seek a decision other than that information be received.

**Recommendation:**

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1. That the report on Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan Project Update, by Land Management Advisor Lorna Douglas and Land Management Specialist Bob Cathcart dated 13 March 2013 be received.
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# **Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan For Northland Regional Council**

**FWQIP number: 69**

<b>Farm location</b>	Flyger Rd, Mata
<b>Farm type</b>	Drystock
<b>Farm size</b>	c. 90ha
<b>Soil types</b>	Whakapara silt loam and clay loam; Whakapara mottle clay loam; Whareora clay; Waipu clay; Marua clay loam; Rangiora clay, clay loam and silty clay loam; Hukerenui silt loam with yellow subsoil.

This plan has been developed to assist the management of land practices so that they are sustainable ecologically and economically, to reduce the negative impacts on water quality. Please note these proposed works are not compulsory.

**Date: February 2013**

**Land Management Advisors: Bob Cathcart and Lorna Douglas**

## LAND DESCRIPTION

The council's properties at the end of Flyger Road together comprise some 90 hectares of river terraces and rolling to steep greywacke hill country. The flat land between Flyger Road and the foot of the hill comprises old terraces of the Ruakaka River, which are overlain by alluvial fans from the adjoining greywacke hills. The soils are Waipu clay and have a winter and spring wetness problem, even when the watertable is managed by surface and subsurface drains.

There is further flat land and low terraces with Whakapara and Whareora soils in valleys through the property, some being high enough and well enough drained to be cultivated but the majority is either at risk of flooding, has a high watertable, or both. Old swampy watercourses dissect the valley floors.

The majority of the property is rolling to steep, and some very steep, greywacke hill country with Rangiora and Marua soils. There are some broader ridge tops which may be cultivated to regrass but which are generally not suited to regular arable use. The steepest land has Marua clay loam hill soils, about 2/3 being in regenerating bush.

<b>LUC Class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>% of Block</b>	<b>Soil Types</b>
3w2	alluvial terrace flats	21.5	23.7	Waipu clay
4w1	alluvial terraces and valley bottoms	3.5	4.0	Waipu clay, Whakapara silt loam and clay loam
4e7	easy and broader ridge tops	6	6.5	Rangiora silty clay loam (some tending towards Hukerenui silt loam with yellow subsoil)
5e8*	rolling hill country	10	11	Rangiora clay, clay loam and silty clay loam and Rangiora silty clay loam
6e9	strongly rolling to steep hill country	28	31	Rangiora clay, clay loam and silty clay loam
6w1		8	9	Whakapara silt loam and clay loam, Whakapara mottled clay loam, Whareora clay
7e6	Steep to very steep greywacke hill country	11.5	12.6	Marua clay loam hill soil
7w1	streambed and swamps	2	2.3	Whakapara mottled clay and swamp

**Objective:** In order to improve water quality it is important that landowners understand the effect their management practices have on water resources, and how they can minimise these.

Table 1: Potential contaminants to water with recommendations to help improve and enhance water quality on the property and in the Ruakaka River catchment.

Potential Containment(s)	Current Practice	Recommended Action(s)
Direct input of stock effluent and sediment from stock access to streams.	Waterways are mostly unfenced so stock accessing water there can erode banks and excrete directly into the water. The stream on the eastern boundary of the property is currently a main water source for stock. The toxic aquatic weed <i>Glyceria maxima</i> is present and may poison stock that eat it.	<b>Priority A:</b> Fence off all waterways with 3-wire electric fences, especially the stream on the eastern boundary of the property. A reticulated water supply and crossings (either new or fix existing ones) will also be needed. Plant willows on eroding areas of stream banks and poplars on northern sides of the stream to shade the water. Spray <i>Glyceria</i> with Glyphosate 20ml per litre of water with 20 ml of Penetrant per 10 litres of water.
Sediment from soil slips.	Several areas of steeper hillsides have soil slips and there is one area of gully erosion on a south-facing slope. Some previous slips have been managed by pine planting.	<b>Priority A:</b> Plant poplars in all erosion areas (as shown on map) at 10m spacings. See planting guide below. <b>Priority B:</b> Fence bush areas in steeper gullies to encourage regeneration which will improve soil stability and increase sediment trapping capacity.
Sediment from bare earth in paddocks, especially if there is heavy rain before pasture recovers.	Current pasture cover is very low. This is partly due to drought, but also because of the current stocking rate and lack of pasture management. Stock can graze the whole property as fences and gates are not working efficiently.	<b>Priority A:</b> Reduce stocking numbers. <b>Priority B:</b> Manage pasture more efficiently using rotational grazing, once streams are fenced and reticulated water supply is available. Improve pasture quality.

**Approximate fence lengths (m):**

**Priority A: 2122 m ; Priority B: 2079 m**

**TOTAL: 4201 m**

**Approximate planting area: 2 ha**





Figure 2: This stream is the water source for this part of the property, but stock access has caused bank erosion. *Glyceria maxima* present is toxic but stock can access it.



Figure 3: The stream has many small tributaries, making it difficult to fence entirely.





Figure 4: Steep pasture areas on both sides of the gully require planting with poplars to control erosion. The native vegetation on the steep face on the right (eastern) side of the photo needs to be fenced to allow regeneration and increase soil stability.





Figure 5: Erosion requiring poplar planting



Figure 6: Cultivated area which will be used for the poplar nursery. Pines at the top of the photo have been used to control earlier erosion.

## Good Practice Guide to Improve Water Quality

Addressing the management areas listed below will reduce the amount of contamination reaching our waterways whilst also benefitting farm production.

### Livestock and Water Management:

- The first priority is to **exclude livestock from waterways** by fencing and having trough water reticulated around the farm. There are not only environmental benefits from this practice but also health and production benefits for livestock from providing better quality drinking water and pasture utilisation. Fenced streams and wet areas increase the ability to sub-divide and back fence.
- **Providing alternative water** in troughs reduces the desirability of riparian areas to cattle, so even when streams are not fenced, cattle do not access these areas as often. Trough water reduces the risk of animal diseases (e.g. liver fluke, leptospirosis, foot rot and giardia) by limiting access to microbes found around swampy margins. When cattle only have access to unpalatable water, their intake decreases, along with their intake of dry matter, which reduces production. Shading streams improves water quality by reducing the temperature and likelihood of algal growth.
- **Provide and/or maintain trees** for stock shade and shelter as there are known production benefits when animals are not exposed to heat stress. Deciduous trees such as poplars and non-weedy willow varieties can be used for shade and fodder in summer, while allowing sunlight onto pasture in winter. If planting trees for shade, think about how many are required and where they are best planted. Shade trees for stock may need to be planted away from waterways so that stock do not congregate near the stream banks.

### Soil and Pasture Management:

- Reduce and slow the rate of runoff into water by having good **pasture cover**. Good feed management is required to ensure pasture cover is retained through the winter, controlling runoff but also ensuring increased production during spring and early summer.. Options include decreasing livestock numbers and heavy classes of stock, increasing rotation length and/or constructing stand off areas.
- Trees also help to **control** and **prevent erosion**, keeping soil in the paddock where it belongs rather than being washed away downstream. Poplars and willows are ideal for helping control soil erosion as they have extensive root systems, grow quickly and can be easily grown from poles. They do require maintenance and, if planting in paddocks where cattle will be grazing, should ideally be fenced off for the first few years of establishment. If using them in sheep paddocks, a plastic sleeve should be sufficient to protect the stem.

### Management of Fertiliser, Irrigation, and Chemical use:

- **Avoid direct application** to waterways and **saturated soil** and do not apply when heavy rain is predicted.
- Apply fertiliser when there is likely to be the most **plant uptake**, therefore getting the best use of the fertiliser.
- Ideally, **split dressings** or decrease the quantity applied to achieve better use and less wastage. Nutrient budgeting, soil testing and possible foliar testing may be used as an indicator to determine what action is needed.

- Do not use contaminated spray containers to mix, empty or fill in waterways.
- Spot spraying rather than broad or aerial spraying is less likely to result in spray drift.
- Remember to dispose of empty chemical containers according to NRC hazardous waste rules (<http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Environment/Farm-Management/Agrichemical-collection/>) or Agrecovery conditions (see: <http://www.agrecovery.co.nz/containers/>).

### **Sediment and Nutrient Management:**

- Create or take care of existing **wetlands** and native vegetation as they help to trap sediment and filter nutrients. Wetlands also provide habitat for native animal species. Fenced off, these areas a sediment and nutrient filter while also reducing the possibility of animals or vehicles getting stuck.
- **Buffer zones** of grass and vegetation along the water's edge help to reduce and slow contamination to water. During dry periods you can graze wider margins at a low stocking rate with light animals to control weeds and keep a dense groundcover. The stream channel should be fenced from stock with temporary standards and tape. If planting riparian margins of drains within fence lines, leave the southern side clear of tall species to allow digger access for drain clearance if necessary.
- Construct and maintain **sediment traps** in runoff areas to interrupt surface flow before it enters waterways. Sediment traps need only be areas where water can pond with a hard rock base, then when the traps approach full capacity the sediment can be cleared with a shovel, tractor or digger bucket and re-applied to pasture or used to fill low spots in paddocks.
- On farm races and tracks, create 'speed bumps' or cut-offs that stop water scouring out the road and directly entering waterways. Capture the runoff in sediment traps or spread it onto the paddock.

### **Fencing of flood-prone areas:**

- Factor into your fence design some 'blow-out' or sacrifice areas to take the strain off the rest of the fence.
- Put the wires on the downstream side of the posts so the staples pop out rather than break the wire.
- Use un-barbed staples so they pop out more easily.
- Use the minimum number of wires that will contain your stock.
- Keep the bottom wire as high as possible to reduce flood damage and consider setting your posts deeper into the ground.
- Think about putting your fence further out from the stream, especially on the outside of erosion-prone bends.

### **Planting:**

- Remove weeds in areas to be planted before you begin to plant; spot spray patches rather than blanket spraying to avoid bare patches that weeds can invade.
- Plant reasonably close together to reduce weed infestation and use larger plants if possible to avoid them being overtaken by grass & weeds.
- Release your plants regularly (at least twice a year) in the first couple of years, until they are tall enough to out-compete weeds. Using stakes (e.g. bamboo stakes dipped in white acrylic paint) to mark the position of seedlings helps you find them later.
- Mulch around young plants if possible to retain moisture and reduce weeds; use weeds that have been pulled out to help mulch around trees.

## **Funding information:**

- You may be eligible for some financial assistance to undertake some of the suggested works through the Northland Regional Council Environment Fund. For more information see <http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Your-Council/Funding-and-awards/Environment-Fund/> |

## **Appendices**

Appendix A	Flyger Rd proposed fence length map
Appendix B	Flyger Rd proposed fence priority and planting area map
Appendix C	Flyger Rd land use capability map with legend
Appendix D	Flyger Rd land resource inventory map
Appendix E	Flyger Rd land resource inventory & land use capability field sheet
Appendix F	Land resource inventory legend



**ISSUE:      EnviroSchools programme –  
                 WaiRestoration project progress report**

**ID:**            A303874

**To:**            Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:**        Susan Karels, Environmental Education Officer / Regional  
                 EnviroSchools Co-ordinator

**Date:**        15 March 2013

**Summary:**    The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the  
                 WaiRestoration project.

**Normal  
Operations**    ☒



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**Report**

As reported to the Committee in December, the purpose of the WaiRestoration project is to support farmers and engage young people and local communities in the restoration of waterways and biodiversity.

The WaiRestoration project is an implementation measure for Waiora Northland Water, linking sound freshwater and land management, education for sustainability and employment opportunities.

**WaiRestoration pilot – Northland 2013**

As planned, the WaiRestoration regional pilot is taking place in Northland in 2013. The pilot is a three way partnership between the council, The EnviroSchools Foundation and Papa Taiao - Earthcare. Papa Taiao – Earthcare is a company owned by Marty Taylor. Marty is contracted to the council as the EnviroSchools facilitator for secondary schools in Northland.

**Professional Development course for Schools**

On 14 March, a professional development course was held for school communities throughout the region. Teachers, principals and other school community members participated in practical workshops covering: WaiNurseries – growing native riparian plants, WaiPlanting – matching riparian plants to streamside sites and terrain, WaiMaintenance – identifying and controlling plant and animal pests, WaiMonitoring – testing and tracking water quality and WaiEnterprise – making money through fencing, selling plants, planting and maintaining plants.

The Department of Conservation led a presentation on Save a Species – the biodiversity component of WaiRestoration. Other community partners participating in the event included the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, He Kakano and Rahui Gardens.

School communities represented include: Bream Bay, Dargaville Intermediate, Hurupaki, Kamo High, Kamo Primary, Kaitia College, Kokopu, Mangakahia, Maungaturoto, Northland College, Ohaeawai, Okaihau, Oromahoe, Otaika Valley, Otamatea High, Panguru, Ruawai, Taipa, Tauraroa, Te Rangi Aniwanuiwa, Waiharara, Whangarei Boys High and Whangarei Intermediate.

### **Waifencing Skills workshop**

The next step in the *Wa*Restoration project is the *Wa*fencing skills workshops to be held in late May. These workshops will involve senior secondary students learning and practising the skills and knowledge related to fencing and environmental awareness and action.

### **Funding**

Discussions with industry funders for the regional *Wa*Restoration pilot and the national project are ongoing. The Enviroschools Foundation has provided a \$50,000 budget for the Northland pilot project.

### **Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in activities described in the council's Long Term Plan and as such are in accordance with the council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this issue is considered to be of low significance under council policy because the report does not seek a decision other than that information be received.

### **Recommendation:**

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1. That the report and presentation provided by Susan Karels, Environmental Education Officer / Regional Enviroschools Co-ordinator on the *Wai* Restoration project be received.
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**ISSUE: Environmental Monitoring for the period 1 February – 28 February 2013**

**ID:** A301820

**To:** Environmental Management Committee Meeting, 26 March 2013

**From:** Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager

**Date:** 6 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to provide an update on council's monitoring and compliance work for the period 1 February – 28 February 2013. It concludes with the recommendation that the report be received.

**Normal Operations**



**Report:**

**ABBREVIATIONS KEY:**

<b>WDC</b>	Whāngārei District Council	<b>FNDC</b>	Far North District Council	<b>KDC</b>	Kaipara District Council
<b>DOC</b>	Department of Conservation	<b>NPC</b>	Northland Port Corporation	<b>NZRC</b>	NZ Refining Company
<b>NRC</b>	Northland Regional Council	<b>FNHL</b>	Far North Holdings Ltd	<b>CH</b>	Consent Holder
<b>STS</b>	Sewage Treatment System	<b>POD</b>	Point of Discharge	<b>PA</b>	Permitted Activity
<b>ESCP</b>	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	<b>RAQP</b>	Regional Air Quality Plan	<b>RWSPN</b>	Regional Water and Soil Plan for Northland
<b>RC</b>	Resource Consent	<b>CMA</b>	Coastal Marine Area	<b>RCPN</b>	Regional Coastal Plan for Northland

**CONSENT COMPLIANCE – AGENDA CODE DESCRIPTION:**

This code indicates:

- the degree of environmental **Impact**;
- the **Response** taken, or to be taken, by staff; and
- the **Status** of the situation.

**Impact to the Environment**

N	<b>Natural Event</b>	Such as flooding, earth movement or algae blooms over which there is little or no control.
U	<b>Unknown</b>	Results do not clearly differentiate between contamination and natural causes; or an incident has been reported sometime after its occurrence and the impact cannot readily be estimated.
0	<b>None Detected</b>	Inspection and/or sampling shows no impact.
1	<b>Minor</b>	The impact of the activity on the receiving environment was minor; effects were localised and/or temporary with non-significant deterioration in water quality, flows, and amenity value and/or land stability.
2	<b>Significant</b>	Environmental impact is likely to extend over some distance or area, and/or could continue for some time (1-3 days), and/or a significant human health risk is likely.
3	<b>Large</b>	The impact is large with the environment requiring restoration or a substantial amount of time to recover (more than one week) and/or a major human health risk is likely.



**Response of Regional Council**

N	<b>None Required or Warranted</b>	It is a natural event or no impact has been detected. Source unknown further investigation is not warranted. Report resulting from a routine monitoring event where no follow up is required.
F	<b>Further Investigation Required</b>	To confirm impact, to assess impact, to locate source, or to determine compliance.
I	<b>Information or Advice</b>	Given on how to avoid future adverse effects.
R	<b>Request</b>	An explanation of the situation or how the situation arose, a statement of the mitigation measures proposed or request certain mitigation measures to be undertaken, maintenance or upgrading to prevent impacts occurring in the future.
W	<b>Written Warning</b>	Written warning to avoid recurrence.
C	<b>Clean Up</b>	Clean up by Regional Council.
E	<b>Formal Enforcement</b>	Abatement Notice, Enforcement Order, Infringement Notice, Prosecution.

**Status**

R	<b>Resolved</b>	Party has fully complied with Regional Council's requests and there is no unacceptable impact to the environment, natural event that the Regional Council cannot realistically influence, no response required or warranted.
P	<b>Pending Inspection</b>	Prevention or mitigation measures have been reported to the Regional Council, as being in place but this has not yet been confirmed by re-inspection.
U	<b>Unresolved</b>	Regional Council requests to prevent or mitigate environmental impacts have not yet been met. The situation has not yet been investigated thoroughly enough to determine environmental impact. The time given for requested or required mitigation measures to be put in place have not elapsed.
M	<b>Routine Monitoring</b>	Routine monitoring.

**Compliance Code Key**

<b>SNC1</b>	Repeated minor non-compliance or significant non-compliance resulting in minor to moderate effects.	<b>SNC2</b>	Significant non-compliance with significant effects.	<b>FUS</b>	Follow up significant non-compliance.
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**ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS**

S	<b>Significant Impact</b>
M	<b>Moderate Impact</b>

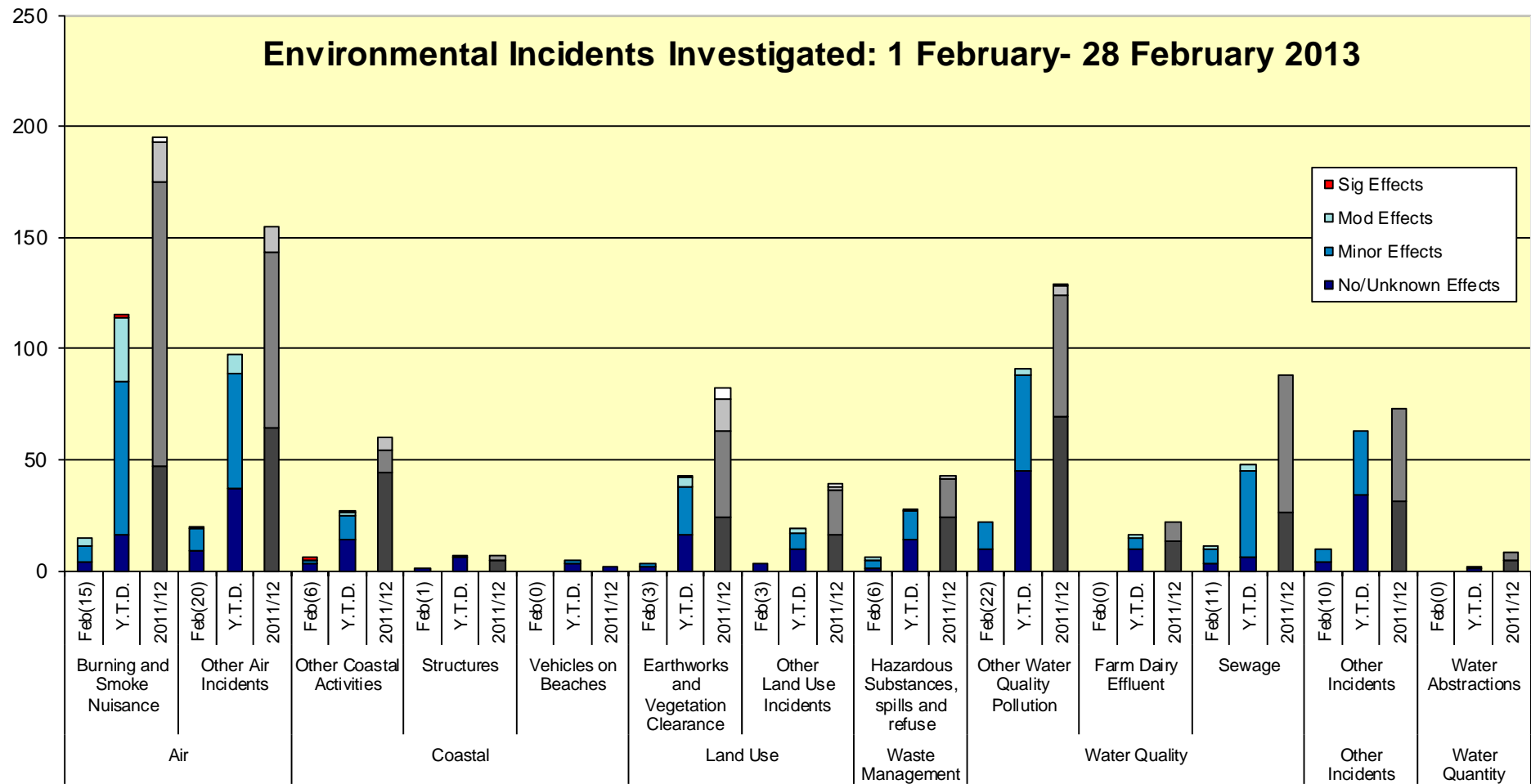
**MARITIME INCIDENT RESPONSE CODES**

**Response**

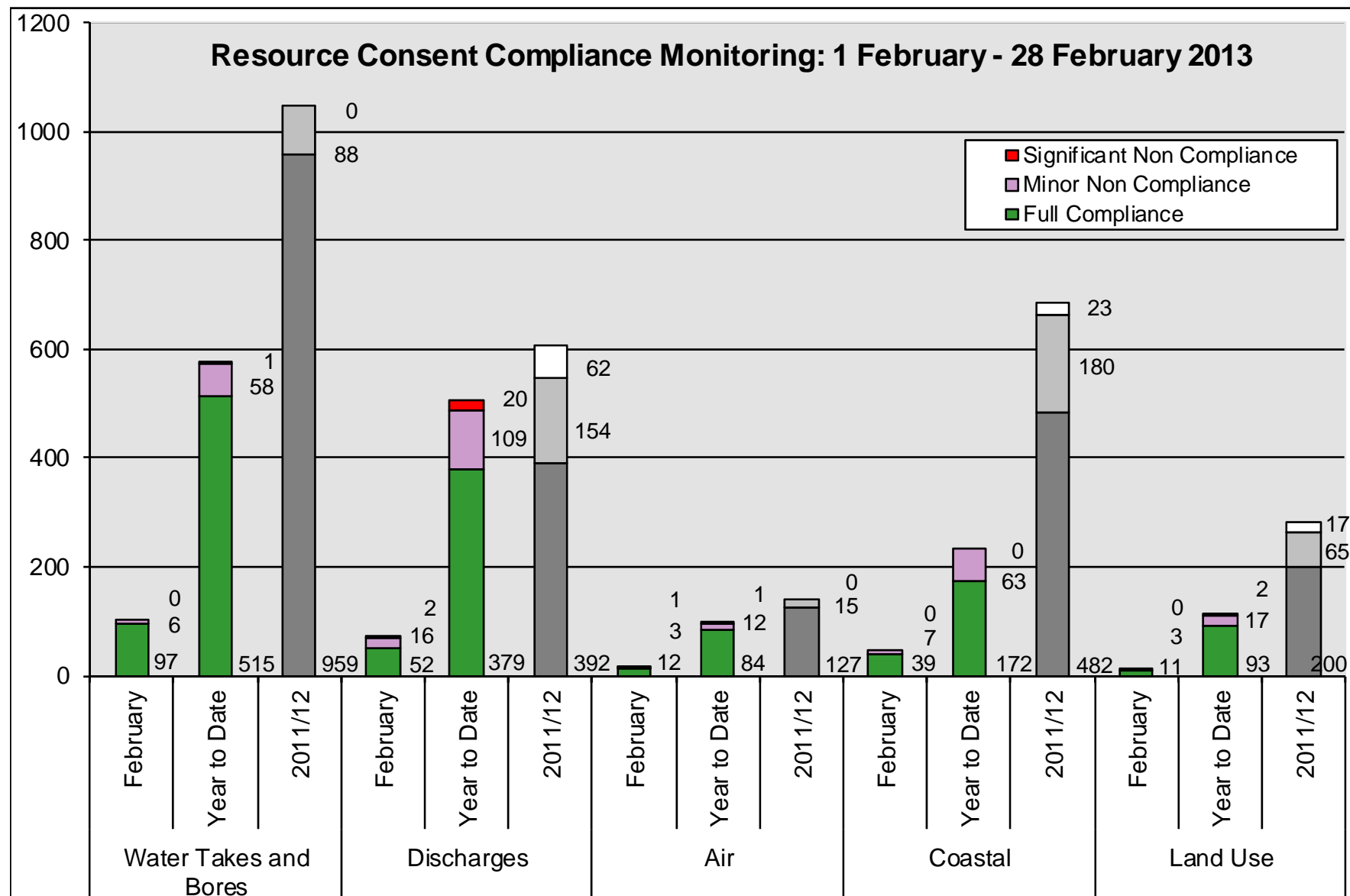
N	<b>No Response Required</b>
F	<b>Further Investigation Required</b>
I	<b>Information or Advice</b>
R	<b>Repaired/Replaced/Removed</b>
W	<b>Written warning issued to offender (offence notice, abatement notice)</b>
P	<b>Prosecution action pending</b>
O	<b>Other Agency</b>

**Status**

R	<b>Resolved</b>	Party has fully complied with Regional Council's requests and there is no unacceptable impact to the environment, natural event that the Regional Council cannot realistically influence, no response required or warranted.
P	<b>Pending Inspection</b>	Prevention or mitigation measures have been reported to the Regional Council, as being in place but this has not yet been confirmed by re-inspection.
U	<b>Unresolved</b>	Regional Council requests to prevent or mitigate environmental impacts have not yet been met. The situation has not yet been investigated thoroughly enough to determine environmental impact. The time given for requested or required mitigation measures to be put in place have not elapsed.
M	<b>Routine Monitoring</b>	Routine monitoring.



Notes: (1) Number of incidents **investigated** will differ from number of incidents **reported** during period  
(2) Greyscale data represents the previous year's total incidents investigated, for comparison purposes



Note: Greyscale data represents the previous year's total compliance monitoring reporting, for comparison purposes

**COASTAL ACTIVITIES** - No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 1 February – 28 February 2013.

**LAND USE ACTIVITIES** - No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 1 February – 28 February 2013.

**WATER TAKES** - No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 1 February – 28 February 2013.

**DISCHARGES TO AIR**

Date	Consent	Details	Location	Notes	Code	Comp
08-Feb-13	708201	First Blast 2012 Ltd : Discharge contaminants to air.	Fertilizer Road, off Port Road, Whāngārei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Booth was not in operation during the site visit.</li> <li>Site and booth maintenance was generally poor and inadequate.</li> <li>The booth showed multiple leaks.</li> <li>The booth had no emission control attached. An emission control system had been purchased and was about to be installed.</li> <li>New owner has yet to make contact to discuss a plan for improving general conditions at the site.</li> </ul>	1RM	SNC1

**DISCHARGES TO WATER OR LAND**

Date	Consent	Details	Location	Notes	Code	Comp
08-Jan-13	1160101	Ringer Farms Ltd: Discharge treated waste water to ground from subdivision.	Galbraith Street, Matapouri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-consented discharge of effluent to land which resulted from unsatisfactory maintenance.</li> <li>Non-compliance with multiple conditions of RC.</li> <li>Formal enforcement action taken.</li> </ul>	2EP	SNC1

**FARM DAIRY EFFLUENT DISCHARGES – NON CONSENTED (MNC) - Follow-up of significant non-compliance (non-consented farms)**

Date	Consent	Details	Location	Notes	Code	Comp
25-Jan-13	800501	Colebrook R H & L E: FDE 3136	Three Mile Bush Road, Matarau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RC to be applied for.</li> <li>System to be upgraded to industry recommended volumes.</li> <li>Contractor booked to undertake work in February 2013.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
25-Jan-13	800592	ITR Ag Ltd: FDE 3859	Pipiwai Road, Matarau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management issues discussed.</li> <li>Better management of gravel trap solids required.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
25-Jan-13	801385	Roger Blunt Family Trust: FDE 3870	Crane Road, Kauri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than half recommended minimum storage.</li> <li>Agreed to upgrade existing pond this season but will still need additional volume.</li> </ul>	2IU	FUS
01-Feb-13	800464	Batten P J & D G: FDE 2844	Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrigator working well. Siphoning had caused the ponding issue identified at routine monitoring. This has been fixed.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS

04-Feb-13	800953	Rowse C J & J R: FDE 8445	Awakino Point Road, Dargaville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage pipe from storage pond had been blocked. The pond was empty.</li> <li>Recommended the pipe be reinstated to allow drainage of winter rainfall, but with a valve that does not leak.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
04-Feb-13	804118	Ridgeview Farms Ltd: FDE 8662	Bee Bush Road, Dargaville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High risk of future non-compliance.</li> <li>Cow numbers to increase to 400 winter / 850 maximum.</li> <li>Identified and communicated the high risk areas.</li> <li>More storage required.</li> </ul>	2IU	FUS
05-Feb-13	800126	Bridgethorne Holdings Ltd: FDE 505	SH 10, Kerikeri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removed one effluent storage tank; installed two others.</li> <li>Still less than industry recommended storage volume.</li> </ul>	2IU	FUS
05-Feb-13	800736	Richards P W: FDE 7099	Hukerenui Road, Hikurangi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer agreed to reinstate spouting and downpipes, divert stormwater from the yard, and install a petrol powered pump and land application sprinklers.</li> <li>Will no longer winter milk.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
07-Feb-13	800080	Gleeson L E: FDE 278	Foster Road, Mangōnui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer had installed land application via petrol powered pump and low application sprinkler.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
07-Feb-13	801375	Hudson M J: FDE 220	Mill Road, Awanui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed that a 1,000m<sup>3</sup> pond would be installed.</li> <li>Farm owner will experiment with secondary treatment in lime/wetland beds.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
19-Feb-13	800924	Hayes R P: FDE 8344	SH 12, Mamaranui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More contingency storage required.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS

**FARM DAIRY EFFLUENT DISCHARGES - CONSENTED (MCO) - Follow-up of significant non-compliance (consented farms)**

Date	Consent	Details	Location	Notes	Code	Comp
24-Jan-13	1545801	O'Leary M H: FDE 3617	Kerehunga Road, Poroti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RC expired.</li> <li>Application for renewal of RC in progress.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
01-Feb-13	870701	Puketarata Farms Limited: FDE 2524	Ormandy Road, Maungakaramea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System not discharging. Applying effluent to land using PTO pump and pod sprinklers.</li> <li>A re-visit is required to help plan and implement an upgrade of the system.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
01-Feb-13	895501	Cotton Farms Ltd: FDE 2611	Caves Road, Mangapai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New storage pond to be built shortly.</li> <li>To be completed by 31 March 2013.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
01-Feb-13	930501	Whakata Farms Ltd: FDE 4204	Te Kowhai Road, Ruāwai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed to re-contour entry/exit race to channel effluent to paddock.</li> <li>Will extend culvert if there are future problems.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
01-Feb-13	954901	Williams A M: FDE 4209	Te Kowhai Road, Ruāwai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed to construct retention ditch and fill in rubbish hole before pad is used again.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS

01-Feb-13	1181801	Keay & Matson Farms Ltd: FDE 1907	Keay Road, Ruarangi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit at owner's request.</li> <li>Agreed to reticulate subsurface drains from standoff pad to the ponds, reinstate stormwater cut-off drains above the ponds and divert water from the dairy roof away from the ponds.</li> <li>Information sent on weeping walls and land application.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUR
01-Feb-13	1224501	Madsen B C & B Y: FDE 4240	Te Kowhai Road, Ruāwai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mess at the feedpad during routine monitoring was due to a one-off winter milking season. Will not winter milk in future.</li> <li>Agreed to upgrade the bunded area to retain solids. Liquids will decant to the disposal system.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
01-Feb-13	1254501	Goldpine Industries Ltd: FDE 2754	Fulton Road, Mata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All required works had been completed including the upgrade of pond two for additional storage.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
01-Feb-13	2703301	Stanaway M A & K W: FDE 4311	Wallace Road, Ruāwai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm staff had completed a training programme instigated by the farm owners. Much of the training was done on-farm.</li> <li>Infrastructure is now sound.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
04-Feb-13	1116301	Quad Farming Limited: FDE 2832	Pyle Road East, Ruakaka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ponds leaked to water.</li> <li>Formal enforcement action taken.</li> </ul>	2IU	FUS
04-Feb-13	1434001	Beejay Stud Ltd: FDE 8574	Pukehuia Road, Pukehuia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was potential for future non-compliance due to some infrastructure problems and the risk of poor management.</li> </ul>	2IU	FUS
04-Feb-13	2538501	Phillips J S & P T: FDE 8455	Awakino Point North Road, Dargaville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drains along a race between the dairy and the feedpad were being piped with effluent reticulated to the feedpad sludge bed.</li> <li>The leak in pond two had been fixed.</li> <li>Low application pod sprinklers had replaced the travelling irrigator.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
05-Feb-13	168201	Dromgool S R: FDE 523	Mangakaretu Road, Kerikeri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The feedpad pond had been repaired. Failure was due to construction during winter.</li> <li>An outlet pipe is to be installed at the pond to prevent erosion of the embankment.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
05-Feb-13	188801	King D B: FDE 7086	Otakiarangi Road, Riponui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stormwater bypass was blocked and was being repaired.</li> <li>Owner agreed to routinely clean pond one.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
05-Feb-13	206701	Te Ngaio Farms Ltd: FDE 910	Wakelins Road, Puketona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A solids separation system will be installed at each feedpad.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
05-Feb-13	729001	Wiroa Holdings Ltd: FDE 559	Wiroa Road, Kerikeri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The pond had been temporarily fixed; not currently used.</li> <li>Owner advised that it would be fixed properly prior to being used again.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS

05-Feb-13	921101	Konings M H & M K: FDE 7004	Otakairangi Road, Otakairangi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved management required.</li> <li>Explained the RC conditions and balancing land application with the discharge consent.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
05-Feb-13	2248101	Greenacre Heights Ltd: FDE 533	Puketotara Road, Kerikeri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guttering on the dairy and an adjacent shed is required to divert stormwater away from the effluent system.</li> <li>Recommended that a warning system for the stormwater diversion system be installed and that more effluent storage is provided by raising embankments of pond two.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
07-Feb-13	950401	Burkitt Trusts Partnership: FDE 410	State Highway 10, Mangōnui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stormwater cut-off drains had been installed above and around the ponds.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
07-Feb-13	958401	Phillip Jecentho Farms Ltd: FDE 265	Oruru Road, Oruru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed to channel all effluent from the feedpad to treatment and better maintain the reticulation.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
07-Feb-13	1234901	Haynes Family Trust: FDE 836	Rakauwahia Road, Kaikohe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed management of the effluent and stormwater diversion system.</li> <li>Discussed effluent management plans to assist future staff.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
07-Feb-13	1235001	Haynes D & K Family Trust: FDE 831	Rakauwahia Road, Kaikohe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit at owner's request.</li> <li>Confirmed the size that they need to upgrade to.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUR
12-Feb-13	966501	McKay R: FDE 1734	McConnell Road, Waipū	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit at owner's request.</li> <li>Improvements to be made to the land application system.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUR
19-Feb-13	883501	Munn D R: FDE 8259	Middleton Road, Waihue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of upgrades had been completed.</li> <li>Still requires additional 400m<sup>2</sup> of aerobic pond.</li> <li>Farmer agreed to upgrade.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS
19-Feb-13	1250901	Jefferies R H & J: FDE 8191	Bayliss Basin Road, Bayliss Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer soon to install land application system as required by RC.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
20-Feb-13	1118801	McBeth Farms Ltd: FDE 3303	Mangakahia Road, Titoki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer proposes to adjust pipework to maximise treatment within system. This involves connecting pond three of the feedpad system to pond four of the dairy shed system.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
20-Feb-13	1130001	Douglas D B Ltd: FDE 3412	McCardle Road, Titoki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer aims to manage system better.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
20-Feb-13	1139701	Morris Farms: FDE 3402	Mangakahia Road, Whāngārei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmer to upgrade entry/exit race area to capture and direct run-off to the treatment system.</li> </ul>	0NR	FUS
20-Feb-13	1245801	Brown P L Farms Ltd: FDE 3436	Mangakahia Road, Titoki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed that stormwater diversion system would be upgraded and tank overflow diverted away from effluent system.</li> </ul>	1IU	FUS

**SOE MONITORING – AIR, LAKES AND WATER**

Date	Number	Project	Location	Comment
05-Feb-13	801427	Summer recreational bathing water quality surveys – Week 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 48 coastal and 12 freshwater sites sampled.</li> <li>6 freshwater and 4 coastal sites had unsuitable swimming results.</li> </ul>
11-Feb-13	801427	Periphyton monitoring		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periphyton sampling of 18 RWQMN sites - the first in a new quarterly periphyton monitoring programme.</li> <li>Samples sent to laboratory for Chlorophyll and species composition analysis.</li> </ul>
12-Feb-13	802714	Whangarei Airshed - Ambient Air Monitoring	Robert Street, Whāngārei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous ambient air monitoring results for PM10, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide indicated compliance with the National Environmental Standard.</li> </ul>
12-Feb-13	864726	Marsden Point Airshed - ambient air monitoring	Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous ambient air monitoring results for PM10 at the Bream Bay College site indicated compliance with the National Environmental Standard.</li> </ul>
13-Feb-13	801427	Summer recreational bathing water quality surveys – Week 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 48 coastal and 12 freshwater sites sampled</li> <li>Two freshwater sites had unsuitable for swimming results.</li> </ul>
13-Feb-13	801303	Regional Water Quality Monitoring Network - Western		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine monthly water quality monitoring of the Kaihu, Waipoua, Waimamaku, Punakitere, Utakura, Mangakahia and Opouteke Rivers.</li> <li>River levels were low; periphyton growth in all waterways.</li> </ul>
13-Feb-13	801314	Regional Water Quality Monitoring Network - Southern		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine water quality monitoring of the Ruakaka, Hakaru, Manganui, Waipao, Mangere, and Otaika Rivers and two sites on the Waiarohia Stream.</li> <li>Rivers levels low in general.</li> <li>Periphyton growth higher than usual.</li> </ul>
13-Feb-13	801302	Regional Water Quality Monitoring Network - Northern		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine monthly water quality monitoring carried out on the Mangamuka, Victoria, Awanui, Kaeo and Oruru Rivers.</li> </ul>
13-Feb-13	801338	Regional Water Quality Monitoring Network - Eastern		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine monthly water quality monitoring of the Waitangi, Waipapa, Kerikeri, Waiharakeke, Waiotu, Ngunguru, Hātea and Whakapara Rivers, and two sites on the Mangahahuru Stream.</li> </ul>
19-Feb-13	801427	Summer recreational bathing water quality surveys – Week 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 23 coastal and three freshwater sites sampled.</li> <li>No sites had unsuitable for swimming results.</li> </ul>
21-Feb-13	802032	Regional Water Quality Monitoring Network - Aupouri Lakes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine water quality monitoring of Lakes Carrot, Heather, Ngatu, Ngakapua North, Ngakapua South, Rotoroa, Rotokawau, Waiparera, Waihopo, Waipara, Morehurehu, Te Kahika and Waiporohita.</li> </ul>
26-Feb-13	801427	Summer recreational bathing water quality surveys – Week 13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 23 coastal and three freshwater sites sampled.</li> <li>No sites had unsuitable for swimming results.</li> </ul>



**ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS**

Date	Number	Details	Location	Comment	Code
04-Feb-13	424431	Dust nuisance.	Kioreroa Rd, Whāngārei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landowner and contractor working on site undertook to keep the dust down.</li> </ul>	M
07-Feb-13	424407	Smoke nuisance.	Raumanga Valley Rd, Whāngārei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site visit confirmed open burning within the Whangarei Airshed.</li> <li>Warning letter sent to the person responsible advising rules on burning under the RAQP.</li> </ul>	M
08-Feb-13	424278	Discharge of boat washdown water (antifoul) to CMA.	Tutukaka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boat washdown water, including antifoul, discharged to the CMA.</li> <li>Formal enforcement action taken.</li> </ul>	S
11-Feb-13	424470	Refuse dumping in waterway.	SH12, Omāpere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rubbish and possible sewage problems in or near the waterway.</li> </ul>	M
12-Feb-13	424379	Sewage spill.	Kutuhu St, Maunu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sewage spill caused high degrees of contamination at downstream swimming sites and potential contamination in upper harbour swimming sites.</li> <li>Signage installed was not sufficient to warn general public of health risks associated with contact with the contaminated water.</li> <li>Signage requirements and placement will be investigated further to ensure improved public safety.</li> </ul>	M
20-Feb-13	424402	Smoke nuisance.	Gordon St, Dargaville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site visit confirmed burning of household rubbish including plastic bottles.</li> <li>Warning letter sent to the person responsible advising rules on burning under the RAQP.</li> </ul>	M
20-Feb-13	424403	Smoke nuisance.	Holmes Ave, Otangarei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site visit confirmed open burning of household rubbish in the Whangarei Airshed.</li> <li>The person responsible was asked to put the fire out.</li> <li>Warning letter sent advising rules on burning under the RAQP.</li> </ul>	M
22-Feb-13	424408	Smoke nuisance.	Boswell St, Kamo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site visit confirmed open burning of rubbish within the Whangarei Airshed.</li> <li>Warning letter sent to the person responsible advising rules on burning under the RAQP.</li> </ul>	M

**MARITIME INCIDENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Code</b>
02-Feb-13	4619	Launch low in the water, thought to be aground.	Snake Bank	• Vessel removed by owner.	RR
03-Feb-13	4621	Vessel adrift.	Wairoa Bay	• Maritime team had been advised in case of any reports of missing barges.	IR
03-Feb-13	4622	Vessel adrift.	One Tree Point	• Vessel recovered with the assistance of locals.	RR
04-Feb-13	4624	Vessel dragging its anchor.	Hātea River	• Vessel secured with the assistance of a local boat yard.	RR
04-Feb-13	4652	Fishing nets obstructing shipping channel.	Whāngārei Shipping Channel	• Advice given to owner of fishing vessel for follow-up with vessel skipper.	IR
08-Feb-13	4643	Request for after-hours hot work permit.	Northport	• Verbal approval given by Harbourmaster for hot work to be carried out.	IR
09-Feb-13	4641	Light extinguished.	Tutukākā Harbour	• Light unit replaced.	RR
10-Feb-13	4644	Yacht adrift from its mooring.	Waitangi River	• Investigations could not identify a vessel adrift in the area.	NR
10-Feb-13	4645	Navigation beacon pole knocked over.	Parua Bay	• A buoy has been temporarily positioned near the damaged beacon. • The beacon will be removed at a later date.	RR
16-Feb-13	4646	Water skiers exceeding 5 knots within 200m of shore.	Taipa Estuary	• Harbour Warden to speak to alleged offender.	FU
18-Feb-13	4648	Water skiers exceeding 5 knots within 200m of shore.	Haruru Falls	• Unable to locate offender.	IR
20-Feb-13	4649	Light extinguished.	#2 The Sticks, BOI	• Light unit replaced.	RR
20-Feb-13	4650	Sunken buoy.	Junction port buoy, Rangaunu Harbour	• New buoy installed. • Damaged and sunken buoy removed.	RR
20-Feb-13	4651	Light extinguished.	A5t starboard beacon, Rangaunu Harbour	• New battery installed.	RR
25-Feb-13	4655	Vessels are too close on moorings.	Ōpua-Kawakawa river	• Further investigation required.	FU
25-Feb-13	4656	Moored vessels are too close.	Russell	• Further investigation required.	FU
09-Feb-13	4642	Oil spill and wreckage from vessel aground.	Rimariki Island	• Spilt diesel dispersed naturally. • Vessel wreck and debris salvaged from sea floor and cleaned up from nearby beaches.	2R
21-Feb-13	4653	Oil slick.	Waiarohia Stream	• Possible source of slick was a boat's automatic bilge discharge which was identified and rectified.	1R
28-Feb-13	4657	Burning vessel.	Rangitane, BOI	• Vessel secured to shore with absorbent boom positioned around it for pollution control.	FU

**Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The receiving of this report is provided for in the council's 2012-22 Long Term Plan, meets the council's obligations under section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991, and is in line with the council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Recommendation:**

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That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 1 February – 28 February 2013 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, be received.

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**ISSUE: River Management Update**

**ID:** A303231

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager

**Date:** 12 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the council's river management activities.

**Normal Operations** ☒

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**RIVER MANAGEMENT WORKS**

**Awanui**

The Tarawhataroa slip repair work is complete.

Long-reach digger work is progressing well and approximately 65% complete. Yearly maintenance spraying is 36% complete and yearly mulching has been completed. The yearly floodgate inspection and maintenance programme is underway and approximately 25% complete.

Staff are preparing for the stopbank condition assessment and expect to get underway in the later part of March.

Staff have reviewed the effectiveness of the proposed additional floodgate outlet at Waihoe channel. This will be discussed with the Awanui River Management Liaison Committee at the 22 March meeting.

The Awanui River computer model calibration and design storm runs (from which to produce flood maps) are now complete. Staff have received and plotted the 10 year flood maps and the model shows good fit with observed flood photographs.

A request for proposals has been advertised for preliminary design of the proposed Awanui Flood Scheme upgrade. The major aspects to be addressed include the reduction of overflow across SH1 south of Kaitaia, Awanui River channel upgrade through urban Kaitaia, the bifurcation of flow at the Whangatane spillway and management of additional Whangatane spillway flow.

**Kaeo-Whangaroa Rivers**

The taking of land has been notified under the Public Works Act for the Kaeo flood scheme, due to land use agreements not being able to be negotiated with two landowners.

Staff are in negotiation with the preferred tenderer for the Kaeo flood scheme, with a view to holding the tender current to the 2013/14 works season.

Work has started on the annual river maintenance programme and is approximately 40% complete.

The flood model extension and recalibration has been completed. Design storm runs have also been completed. Simulations with the updated model will now be run for the combined stage 1 and 2 scheme works.

The Kaeo-Whangaroa Rivers Liaison Committee meeting was held on 25 February 2013. Minutes from the meeting are **attached**.

### **Kerikeri-Waipapa River**

Work on the maintenance programme has started and is approximately 25% complete.

The flood model has been calibrated and design storm runs have been completed. Checks have been undertaken on the design storm results. Simulations of the proposed Kerikeri-Waipapa flood scheme have been commissioned. The simulations will allow for a comparison of modelled flood levels and extents before and after proposed changes to the river system.

A request for proposals for detailed design will be advertised following the receipt, and pending a favourable review, of the simulation results.

### **Kaihu River**

River maintenance work is progressing in the lower reaches and is approximately 20% complete. The NRC Biosecurity Team have been monitoring rice grass regrowth in the lower river and follow-up spray is scheduled for the coming weeks.

A site meeting with affected land owners near the Rotu Bottleneck is scheduled for 20 March, to discuss a landowner proposal for modification of an unauthorised stopbank that has been a contentious issue for a number of years. This meeting is intended to help facilitate resolution of issue.

### **Whangarei Urban Rivers**

The maintenance works programme is approximately 45% complete, with gravel extraction work continuing upstream in the Waiarohia River around the Railroad Bridge. Further channel maintenance is now being assessed along the Hatea River in the Whareora Road area.

Geotechnical drilling and laboratory testing was completed for detailed design of the Kotuku Dam.

Negotiations to secure land required for the dam have been continuing. Notices of desire to acquire land have been served on all affected land owners.

The submission period for the dam designation and resource consent applications closed on 6 March 2013. Nine submissions were received on the notice of requirement, and nine submissions on the resource consent.

A request has been made to the Whangarei District Council for stopping of roads associated with the dam, and the setting aside of reserve land for the dam where this is required for construction or stormwater ponding. Whangarei District Council will consider a report on the request at its 27 March meeting.

The flood model upgrade is still underway. Flows and levels through the model have been calibrated and staff have identified a number of further improvements which relate to flood mapping. Once improvements have been completed the design storms will be run.

The next meeting of the Urban Whangarei River Management Liaison Committee is scheduled for 10 April 2013.

### **Waitangi River**

The rehabilitation work undertaken at Lilly Pond last season shows good bank stabilisation. It was noted that gravel accretion is occurring in this natural deposition area and could be targeted for future extraction.

The flood model is currently being re-calibrated based on new flood records from the recently installed additional river gauges. Significant model upgrades have been incorporated to address a number of technical issues.

### **Kawakawa River**

Hundertwasser Trust commissioned work to the planned wetlands and NRC provided flood levels for this work to tie into the longer term Kawakawa town stopbank proposal. The contractor and Hundertwasser Trust have been informed that the bank is too low and will not meet the objectives of the longer term Kawakawa Stopbank proposal.

### **Minor River Works**

The minor river works are approximately 50% complete. NRC and FNDC are jointly funding two projects; river management work in Pawarenga in order to protect the bridge over the Rotokakahi River, and lowering of a bund along the Rahiri Settlement Road to reduce scour of the road during flood events. In addition, work has been completed on obstructions downstream of the Pokapu Road Bridge over Waiharakeke Stream near Otiria. On the Otaika Stream strategic willows that exacerbate flooding have been “drilled and killed”, removal is typically six weeks after drilling and injecting herbicide.

<b>River</b>	<b>Work Programmed for this Work Season</b>	<b>Proposed date for Physical Works</b>
Rotokakahi @ Pawarenga	Gravel/Shingle Management with FNDC	Complete
Panguru and Lower Waihou	Gravel management around bridges	On Hold
Whirinaki	Maintenance Assistance for Whirinaki Toiora Project	NRC have supplied herbicide to assist with weed control along the river corridor
Waima	Clear gravel under SH Bridge	Complete
Waihou	Lower earth mounds/berm along Rahiri Rd with FNDC	Complete
Waitangi River	Haruru Falls RC application to allow removal of shingle island build up in CMA	A pre-hearing meeting will be held with the two submitters to try and resolve differences and to try and avoid costs of a hearing.
Otiria Stream, Turntable Hill	Shingle extraction and willow spraying SH1 Bridge to be funded by NZTA	March 2013
Otiria and Morewa	Clearance around spillway and Waiharakeke Bridge	Complete
Waiharakeke (Willowbank, kawakawa)	Remove tree affecting NRC Gauging Station	Complete
Kawakawa	Design and Resource Consent for Township Stopbanks	Request for proposal issued for design.
Maungahahuru (Piano Hill)	Remove tree/island blocking flow up stream SH1	On hold
Otaika Stream	Willow spraying/removal	March 2013
Whangarei Heads Road	Remove flame tree (Waikaraka) with WDC	March 2013
Ngunguru River	Remove shingle island	March 2013
Ahuroa River (Waipu)	Willow spraying/removal	Complete
Paparoa	Removal of Tree with KDC	Complete

**Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in activities described in the council's Long Term Plan and as such are in accordance with the council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this issue is considered to be of low significance under council policy because the report does not seek a decision other than that information be received.

**Recommendations:**

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1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager and dated 4 February 2013, be received.
  2. That the Minutes from the Kaeo-Whangaroa Rivers Liaison Committee meeting of 25 February 2013 be received.
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**Attachment:**

Minutes from the Kaeo-Whangaroa Rivers Liaison Committee meeting of 25 February 2013.

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Report of the meeting of the Kaeo River – Whangaroa Catchment Liaison Committee,  
held on Monday 25 February 2013  
Union Church Hall, Leigh Street, Kaeo commencing at 10.30 a.m.

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**Present – Committee Members:**

Craig Brown	Chair
Joe Carr	(ex officio)
Geoff Stone	(Community representative - Taupo Bay, Pupuke, Totara North, Matangirau, Tauranga Bay, Mahinepua, Te Ngairangi and ratepayers outside of the Kaeo River catchment)
John Richardson	(Area representative - the middle catchment area from the Waiare Gorge to Waiare Road – SH 10 intersection)
Ngaere Manning	(Ratepayer representative – flood plain and catchment area from Waiare Road to Whangaroa Harbour to the Kaeo River – Whangaroa Catchment)
Violet Walker	(representing Wai-Care Group)
Michael Hayes	(Whangaroa Ward farming representative)
Bruce Mills	(Representing Business and commercial interests within Kaeo)
John Kooge	(representing Transit - NZTA)
Dianne Maxwell	(Councillor, Far North District Council)

**Also in Attendance:**

Anne Knutson	Landowner
Warren Martin	Landowner
Ian Hayes	Landowner
Yvonne Robinson	Landowner
Georgina Neumann	NZTA
NRC staff:	Bruce Howse, Joseph Camuso, Doug Foster, Malcolm Nicholson (CEO), Nola Sooner (minutes)

**1. APOLOGIES**

**Resolved:** That the apologies from Garry Ware and Stephen Rush be accepted.

Bruce Mills : Michael Hayes

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2012 be accepted.

Georgina Neumann : Bruce Mills

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Pupuke Bridge**

Michael stated that NZTA have spent considerable monies on the approaches to the bridge. John Kooge advised there are safety issues relating to the approach of the



bridge which has become a priority on the roading side of the works programme. Georgina advised that if there is too much more movement of the sediment, it would compromise the safety of the bridge. Michael noted NRC has funding to do the work that was actually set to be done and this should be undertaken in consultation with NZTA.

### **Stopbank**

John Richardson raised a query regarding progress of the stopbank. Bruce Howse referred to a plan circulated that shows a reduction in the water levels immediately upstream of the proposed spillway.

### **Mangroves**

Warren enquired if there were plans to move any mangroves. Bruce Howse said there is no plan, as results from modeling of the dredging of the river show approximately very small reduction in flood levels upstream. Craig noted that we have been successful in some parts of Northland in having mangroves removed.

### **Landuse negotiations**

Violet noted there is an advert in the Northland Age referring to the Public Works Act – Bruce Howse advised there are two property owners with which NRC has not been able to reach an agreement. The notice refers to all land but it only relates to two properties that NRC does not have signed agreements for.

### **Gum Trees**

In reply to Geoff's query regarding the gums trees stand as to whether we have a thinning programme, Bruce Howse advised there is no thinning programme in place and noted there would have to be a need to purchase those trees to thin them. When looking at the area, there are open spaces under those trees and work has been done to tidy up the area under those trees.

### **2012-2013 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Doug advised Mooch Contractors has commenced and work on the Omanu Bridge is anticipated to start next week. He reported Mooch has been down near the old slaughter house and removed blockages from there. The trees will get burnt when it is safe to burn them. Discussion was held on the flax removal. Doug didn't feel it was a good use of public money at this stage to remove the flax as he didn't feel it was a major obstruction of flood water. Michael requested area site visit. Doug to organize.

### **Gravel extraction at SH10 Bridge**

Doug advised Mr Brinkley has use for approx 3,000 cubic metres of gravel. There is also intention to use \$2,000 to widen up the Waikare channel, with excavated material to be used for the community playground. Steve Zivkovich is happy for Doug to pull out and create a stockpile on their property. Michael asked if the work being done below the bridge is sufficient when there is a massive shingle above the bridge itself. Ian referred to the shingle by the bridge as it becomes a personal problem. Craig asked "do we buy more time by removing the shingle above the bridge now or not". Doug noted that one decent flood, could refill everything removed. Craig requested staff to keep these comments in mind.

Geoff asked if money was being spent elsewhere - \$1,000 is planned for work downstream of the Taupo Bay Motor Camp. At Matangirau willow burning will be undertaken. Joe Camuso noted that a considerable amount of money was spent in Tauranga Bay last year. Craig cautioned we need to be watchful that we have part of the community paying but not receiving any benefit from the allocated rates.

Geoff requested next Nov/Dec to go to some of the outlying areas to see if there is anything else to be done. **Action: Joseph Camuso.**

Geoff is not aware of any urgent works that need to be done but felt we should keep on top of it.

#### **FLOOD SCHEME PROGRESS UPDATE**

Bruce Howse summarized the resource consent which has now been approved. He summarized the negotiations over acquiring the easements over the land. We have tried extensively to get all landowners to sign. Bruce Howse noted landowners can still graze the stopbank but if it leads to erosion of the stopbank, then NRC can request the stock to be removed. Michael referred to the shingle put in by the Police Station, he referred to the rest of the stopbanks and being able to graze it would give some incentive to landowners to be supportive of the flood scheme. Joe Carr said if we could put a shingle cap on it, this may keep landowners happy. Bruce Howse confirmed we are going to have to work with the landowners on an ongoing basis, and he is happy to talk with them on an individual basis to accommodate them. Craig noted we want a stopbank that stops the water.

Joseph Camuso referred to the tender. NRC had seven contractors bid on the tender. Staff are negotiating with the contractor who won the tender to have a delayed start date to start next work season.

#### **KAEO FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS BUDGET**

The budget was presented for the proposed capital works for Stage 1 Kaeo flood scheme works. The tender was for \$470,054 which is being negotiated with the contractor for a delayed start date. Bruce Howse noted a local archaeologist has been engaged to be present for the stripping operations for the topsoil to give authority for the works to proceed. The archeologist has been approved by the Historic Places Trust. Iwi monitoring would concentrate on cultural issues. Within the Historic Places Trust, as part of the cultural monitoring requirements, there is an approved archaeologist who has delegated to a local person to act on his behalf to help keep the costs down.

#### **FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE HOMES UPDATE**

There are three agreements in place, another six properties are expressing interest. A further two landowners cannot see they can do much with \$38,000 available. Funding is available for use up until 1 July 2016. NRC will write to the remaining landowners who have not yet signed up to an agreement, requesting them to sign up and then look at reallocate the remaining funding carefully. Joe Carr said if there are funds left over it needs to be distributed fairly.

Dianne Maxwell noted that when building consents are issued now, staff refer to the flood maps provided by NRC. Warren commented that flooding needs to be reported accurately in the LIM reports.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Michael Hayes noted NRC's proposed regional policy statement – it is open to 1<sup>st</sup> March. Craig encouraged Michael to put in a submission to the NRC for consideration.

John Richardson asked what is happening with the forestry up by the Waiare Gorge. Craig requested staff to contact Juken NZ Ltd to find out what their logging plan is and this committee will be informed in due course. **Action: Joseph Camuso**

Doug noted we have to be aware that we may be making a bigger rod for our back in the long term by asking them not to cut down the trees.

**Next Meeting**

Date to be advised in due course.

Meeting closed at 12.15 pm

**NRC Contacts**

Local: Doug Foster, Land Management Officer  
Kaitaia Office 09 408 6600 / 027 476 7983

River Management Team: Joseph Camuso, River Management Engineer  
Whangarei Office 09 470 1200 / 027 438 4639

**ISSUE: Update on Biosecurity responses: Kauri dieback  
Kiwifruit Psu-V, Mediterranean fanworm,**

**ID:** A303763

**To:** Environmental Management Committee, 26 March 2013

**From:** Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager

**Date:** 14 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to update the Environmental Management Committee on Kauri dieback, Mediterranean fanworm and the kiwifruit vine disease Psu-V. The report concludes that the committee notes the information.

**Normal  
Operations**



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**Kauri Dieback: joint agency response**

A joint letter signed by the four upper North Island regional councils has been sent to the Minister for Primary Industries, The Hon Nathan Guy. This letter urges the Minister to maintain MPI's role in the joint agency response and commit \$4 million beyond 2014 so that the response can continue. A copy of this letter accompanies the council agenda.

**Kiwifruit Psu-V: removal of vines from abandoned orchards**

Further work has been undertaken by contractors to kill regrowth which has been observed on previously treated abandoned orchards. Complete dieback of the vines has occurred as a result of the spray programme and staff are not predicting that any further work will be required.

A draft of the proposed National Pest Management Plan for Psu-V is currently being prepared and it is likely that stakeholders will receive an opportunity to comment shortly. This will be the appropriate time to evaluate any implications for the region, clarify the rules and understand how the plan intends managing abandoned kiwifruit orchards into the future.

**Mediterranean fanworm**

NRC staff assisted NIWA and MPI on their six-monthly marine pest surveillance in Whangarei harbour during February. Although surveillance included areas outside of previously identified locations, fanworm were only found at Marsden Cove and Port Nikau. These were at lower densities and sizes than had been expected.

- Commercial divers have now checked all the fender piles, sheet pile and structures around Main 1 and 2 and the Ship Repair slipway and wharf. In total over 200 wharf piles and many other structures were surveyed. Divers found on average less than 1.5 fan-worm per pile at Main 1 and 2, just over two fanworm per pile at Main 3 and an average of 1.8 fanworm per pile from Ship Repair.
- The average size of the fan-worm found was relatively small at 110mm.

These results are very encouraging, overall the densities are very low and the fanworm appear to be growing quite slowly. Nearby moorings and navigational markers have also been checked finding only one small individual (60mm) on a

**ITEM: 13**

Page 2 of 2

channel marker. The intention now is to re-survey the area within the month to ensure we have collected as many fan worm as possible; this survey will include all the wharf structures and navigational markers, an area of seafloor adjacent to the piles and any vessels that may be a source of infection.

Commercial divers have also completed works in Marsden Cove removing fan-worm from all the structures and seafloor, the divers have been finding very low numbers on the seafloor and we are confident we have removed the majority of fan-worm from this area. Re-survey of this area using the same method as above will occur within the next month.

Staff have been encouraging stakeholders to keep in contact if ANY other vessels move into Whangarei, particularly from Auckland and other known infestation sites and reports have been forthcoming.

Incidents involving vessels which have been discovered to have fanworm on their hulls have also been dealt with using powers under the Biosecurity Act and with the co-operation of the owners. Investigations into these matters are continuing. A full update on recent fanworm incidents and the outcome of these is expected to be reported at the next meeting.

**Legal compliance and significance assessment:**

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in activities described in the council's Long Term Plan and as such are in accordance with the council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Recommendation:**

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1. That the report, Update on Biosecurity Responses: Kauri dieback, Kiwifruit Psu-V, Mediterranean fanworm, by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager dated 14 March, be received.
-

4 March 2013

Hon Nathan Guy  
Minister of Biosecurity  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

### **Funding of National Kauri Dieback Management Programme**

Dear Mr Guy

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Primary Industries and Biosecurity. Our councils look forward to working with you to protect primary production, biodiversity, human health and wellbeing, through the mechanisms provided under the Biosecurity Act.

We are writing to you at this time to express our concern that the Executive Leadership Team of the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has informed the Joint Agency for Long Term Management of Kauri Dieback Disease (JA), that it will not forward any funding bid to Cabinet for the 2014-2019 period, and that henceforth MPI involvement will be restricted to assistance with national branding.

As you will be aware, kauri dieback disease poses a very significant threat to kauri and the future of the species altogether. In some areas most or all of the kauri are dead or dying. Currently there are no known control methods, but research funded by the JA is proceeding as fast as possible to develop control tools. Some information on disease extent and impacts is attached.

The JA consists of representatives from, and is funded by, MPI, our four regional/unitary councils, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and northern iwi. Since 2008 the JA has managed and funded almost all matters pertaining to kauri dieback, i.e. research, disease surveillance and monitoring, provision of phytosanitary measures, community engagement, audit and reporting. In the current (2009-2014) period, the programme will cost \$6M (externals), of which MPI has contributed approximately \$4M, with the remainder coming from DOC and the four councils. Councils and iwi also provide a huge amount of infrastructural and staff time in managing the many projects throughout the natural range of kauri in New Zealand.

The JA has identified the elements that will be necessary to maintain progress in stopping the spread of disease and developing control tools, for the 2014-2019 period. The research elements are likely to exceed \$9M, with at least \$4M of that needed in the first two years. The research findings would apply across all of the natural range of kauri. This research could not be afforded by DOC or regional councils.

The kauri dieback programme has attracted a great deal of community support and this has reflected very well on MPI. The JA structure is essentially the MPI incursion response model. The other JA member organisations are full of praise for the efforts of MPI staff in the programme. Any loss of MPI funding and staff involvement will severely compromise the JA programme and it is difficult to see how the JA itself could survive.

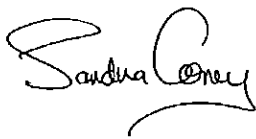
The collapse of this effective collaborative structure will augur very badly for the survival of kauri in New Zealand. Kauri is the nation's most iconic tree species, and kauri is vital to the nation's wellbeing through tourism and biodiversity values.

The authors of this letter, representing the Auckland Council and the three upper North Island regional councils, urge you to ensure that the MPI funding is continued over the 2014 – 2016 period. It is suggested that a commitment of \$4M over this period would be the minimum investment necessary to continue the programme.

We also urge you to ensure that MPI continues to work collaboratively with the councils within the JA.

The survival of kauri and kauri forests depends on an adequately funded and coordinated management programme. We are committed to this end but need the involvement and support of MPI. We look forward to your favourable response. The councils would be very willing to speak to you on this vital matter.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Sandra Coney  
Chair  
Parks, Recreation and Heritage Forum  
Auckland Council



Craig Brown  
Chairman  
Northland Regional Council



Peter Buckley  
Chairman  
Waikato Regional Council



John Cronin  
Chairman  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council

**ISSUE: Climate and Water Resources – update**

**ID:** A302656

**To:** Environmental Management Committee Meeting, 26 March 2013

**From:** Graeme MacDonald, Civil Defence Emergency Management Senior Programme Manager and Alan Bee, Hydrology Monitoring Officer

**Date:** 14 March 2013

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Northland's rainfall patterns, soil moisture deficits, groundwater levels and river flows, and the response to the drought as declared by the Minister for Primary Industries on 27 February 2013. It concludes with the recommendation that the council receives the report and supports the response and monitoring plan.

**Normal Operations** ☒

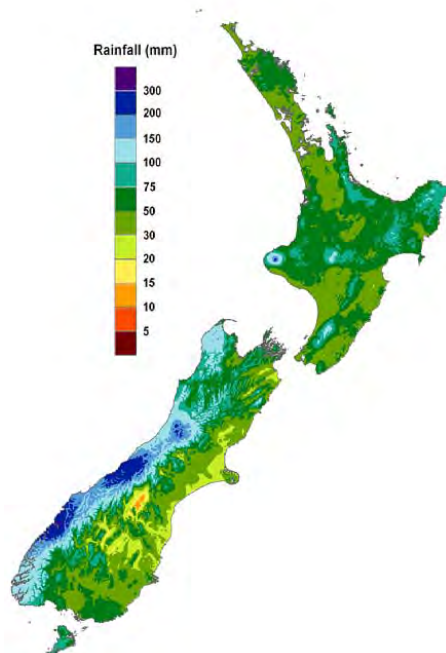
**INTRODUCTION**

Northland, particularly the south and west of the region, has suffered a prolonged dry spell, from October 2012.

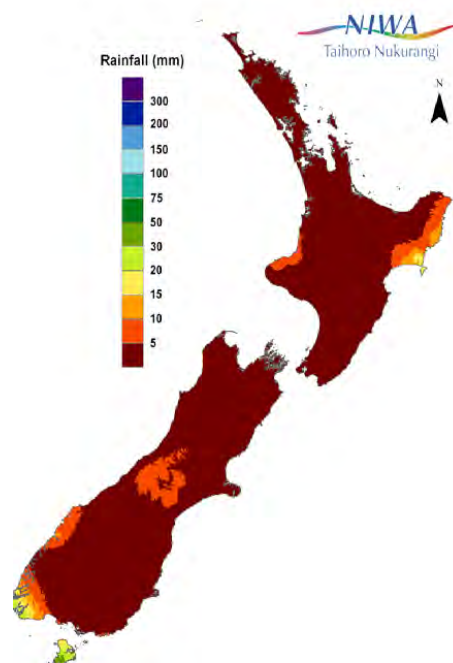
The impact includes -

- Extreme (130-150mm) soil moisture deficits, resulting in poor pasture
- and crop growth, and stock feed and water shortages
- Restrictions in place for some irrigators
- Restrictions starting on some west coast public water supplies (Kaipara and Far North).
- Extreme fire risk resulting in a total fire ban across the region with increased numbers of vegetation fires

As a result Northland is facing a severe drought.



Average Rainfall,  
9am 17/02 to 9am 04/03  
(Based on a 30 year climatology: 1981-2010)



Observed Rainfall,  
9am 17/02/2013 to 9am 04/03/2013



## **DROUGHT COMMITTEE**

On 26 February the Rural Support Trust (RST) Northland convened a teleconference of key stakeholders to coordinate the response in the rural sector and an Adverse Events Committee was established. The meeting attracted a wide cross section of interested parties, including representatives from the RST, rural professionals, horticulturalists, farmers, banking sector, local and central government.

After group consensus, the RST made a request at that meeting to the Minister of Primary Industry to declare the drought as a “medium scale” event under MPI’s adverse events policy. The purpose of this application was to enable access to a suite of relief measures offered under the policy.

On 27 February the Minister declared the drought as a medium scale (regional) event after a visit to the region and meeting with farmers, representatives of the horticulture sector and representatives from the responding agencies including the RST and NRC.

The area covered by the declaration coincides with the MPI / RST boundary which is north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

## **RESPONSE**

To coordinate the response the RST have established four key sector sub-committees; Finance, Communications, Welfare and Extension (or advice to farmers), each under the leadership of a chair. The sub-committee will develop individual action plans that establish goals and objectives. The overall coordination is being managed by the RST Convenor Julie Jonkers.

Regional council staff, including the Deputy CEO, have been very active in providing assistance, advice, guidance and resources to the RST response. The nature of the assistance has included provision of hydrological information, secretarial assistance, report and media release writing and the provision of a dedicated web page <http://www.nrc.govt.nz/drought> to provide a single portal for information.

On 5 March the RST convened the second group teleconference (in what will become weekly meetings) to receive reports back from each of the sub-committees and an update of the situation. Representatives from various sectors (approximately 22 people) participated in this meeting.

The key points from each sub committee at this time are:

### **Extension**

- Beef + Lamb NZ and DairyNZ newsletters have been distributed (email) with fairly generic and broad-based information in the first issue. Next issues will be more Northland based and use case studies. Fonterra will use their database to expand the distribution.
- Availability of feed supplement is a concern; palm kernel which was used extensively in the 2010 Northland drought is unavailable or has been contracted and further shipments are not expected for at least 4-6 weeks.
- Feed alternatives in the form of grain mixes and hay and hauledage are to be explored.
- Dairy farmers are being encouraged to minimise the losses this season and dry cows off rather than affecting overall livestock condition and scores which may affect future production and calving.

### **Welfare**

- The Welfare sub committee is scheduled to meet on 8 March. This cluster has established strong links with the welfare sector including Victim Support, MSD and animal welfare agencies
- Calls to the RST help line are increasing; some from contract milkers who are paid on production and are already facing financial hardship and others in relation to stock welfare and water availability.

### **Finance**

- This sub committee has yet to meet. However a common theme appearing is cash flow pressure. Some areas are significantly behind budget. The BNZ and ANZ banks have put drought packages in place to allow quick turn-round approvals/attractive interest rates to support farmers.

### **Communications**

- Working closely with the NRC this sub committee has been quick to respond to a variety of media enquiries, ensuring consistent messaging.
- The drought story is getting good coverage overall and the media are listening to the messages and reporting accurately.
- Both the NRC and the RST websites are up and running and queries are being received as a result of this coverage.
- Auckland Council will also provide links on their website through to RST website/phone numbers etc.

## **COUNCIL UPDATE AND WATER RESTRICTIONS**

### **Far North District Council**

- FNDC have initiated water use restrictions for the Opononi/Omapere public water supply,
- Restrictions may soon be needed for the Rawene and Kaitaia supply areas.

### **Kaipara District Council**

- KDC has initiated water use restrictions for the Dargaville area public water supply.
- NRC has issued a Water Shortage Direction to allow KDC to take water from the Kaihu River outside of consent restrictions.
- Kaihu River irrigators have been required to stop taking water.

### **Whangarei District Council**

- No water shortage issues within the Whangarei district
- Some irrigators will be poised to cease taking as river levels approach minimum take limits but this varies across rivers within the district.

### **Auckland Council**

- Engaged and participating.

## **CURRENT WEATHER SITUATION**

Minimal rainfall fell in Northland over the preceding week and no rain is anticipated for the coming fortnight.

Since 1 January 2013, the following rainfall amounts have been recorded at automatic gauges:

- Dargaville (NIWA) 22.6mm
- Whangarei 20.2mm
- Kerikeri 46.0mm

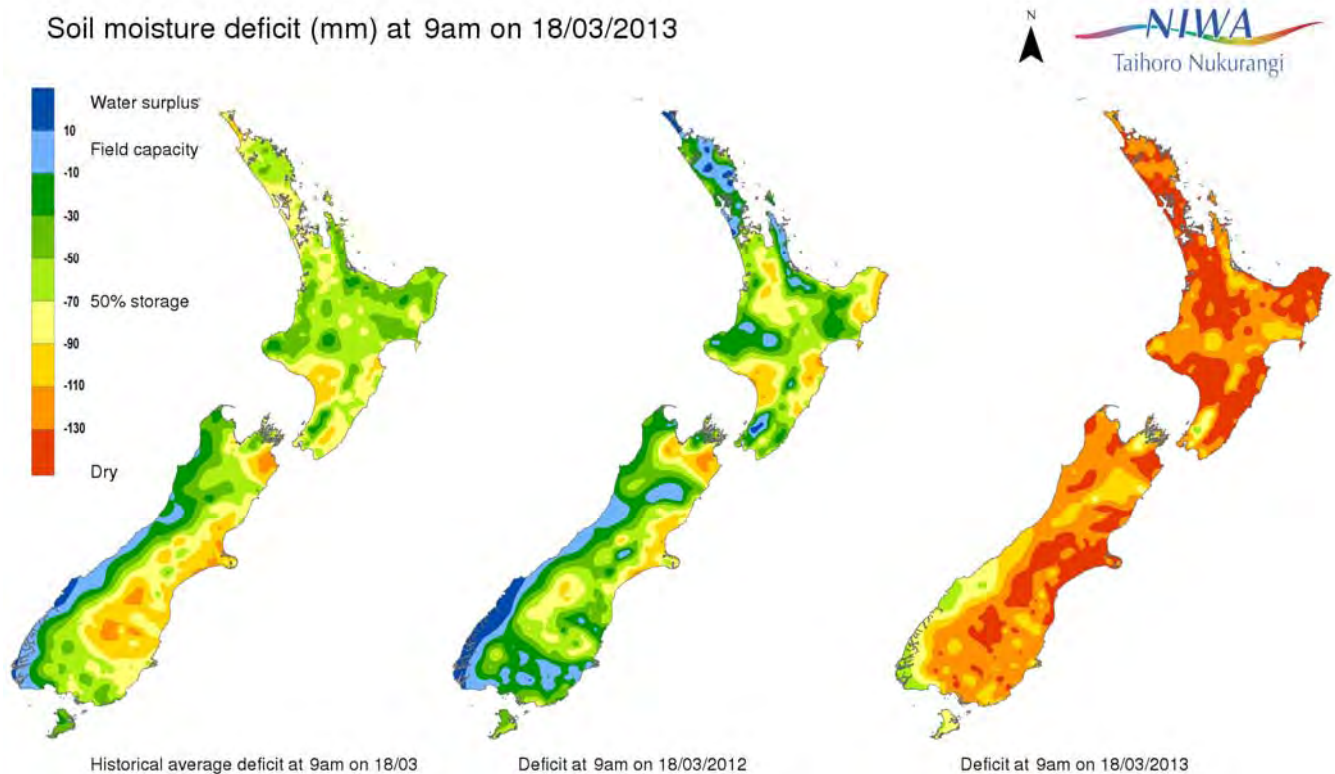
- Kaikohe 45.5mm
- Kaitaia 17.5mm

For many places, these are the lowest Jan/Feb rainfall totals in 50 years.

Soil moisture is extremely low and approaching 150mm “permanent wilting point” deficit level in the Dargaville area. Whangarei and Kaitaia are also very dry at about the 140mm deficit level with Kaikohe and Kerikeri nearer 130mm. Small dams and streams are drying rapidly. Larger rivers are receding, with the Kaihu and Manganui Rivers already below five year low flows. Other major rivers are at or approaching their mean annual low flows.

#### Long term outlook

The latest NIWA Seasonal Climate Outlook (March-May 2013) predicts that rainfall will be near normal for most regions and that soil moisture levels and river flows are projected to be normal to below normal for the autumn season for the whole of the North Island.



**Compliance with decision making processes:**

The activities detailed in this report are part of the Council's day to day operations, they are provided for in Section 7.1.1(b) in the Council's 2012-2022 Long Term Plan and in the Council's 2012-2013 annual plan, and are therefore in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act.

The programme (along with other State of Environment programmes) also fulfils the Council's statutory obligations under section 35 (2)(a) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Recommendations:**

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1. That the report Climate and Water Resources – update Graeme MacDonald, Civil Defence Emergency Management Senior Programme Manager and Alan Bee, Hydrology Monitoring Officer dated 14 March 2013 be received.
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