

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda

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

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Cr J Carr, Chairman

Cr G Ramsey (Deputy Chairman)
Cr T Davies-Colley
Cr D Maxwell
Dr G Blunden

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

Cr B Hunt
Cr C Christie
Mr A Clarkson
Mr G Gover

OPEN MEETING

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**ISSUE: Confirmation of Minutes:
Environmental Management Committee meeting
28 May 2013**

ID: A551292

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Peternel McLean, Committee Secretary

Date: 4 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to confirm the minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 28 May 2013.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

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

-
1. That the minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 28 May 2013 be confirmed.
-

**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 28 May 2013, commencing at 9.30 am

Present:

Northland Regional Council

Cr Joe Carr (Chairman)
Cr Craig Brown (ex officio) from 10.12 am
Cr Bronwyn Hunt
Cr Bill Rossiter
Cr Tony Davies-Colley

Whāngārei District Council

Cr Crichton Christie

Far North District Council

Cr Tracy Dalton (alternate)

Kaipara District Council

Commissioner Richard Booth

Department of Conservation

Mr Chris Jenkins

Environmental Interest Groups

Dr Greg Blunden (from 10.28 am)

Farming Community

Mr Alan Clarkson

In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Chief Executive Officer
Operations Director
Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager
Environmental Monitoring Programme Manager
Policy Specialist - Water
Council Secretary

Part Meeting

General Manager – Policy and Planning
Land/Rivers Senior Programme Manager
Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager
Land Programme Manager
Economist
Groundwater Management Specialist
Policy Analyst

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 9.32 am.

Apologies

Moved (Hunt/Clarkson)

That the apologies from Deputy Chairman, Graeme Ramsey, and Mr Geoff Gover (Forestry Industry) for non-attendance, and also Councillor Craig Brown for lateness, 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.

Confirmation of Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting held on 26 March 2013 (Item 1.0)

A537797

Moved (Hunt/Clarkson)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Management Committee held on 26 March 2013 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

Māori Representation – Environmental Management Committee (Item 2.0)

Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 28 May 2013.

A538132

Moved (Jenkins/Rossiter)

That the report “Māori Representation – Environmental Management Committee” by Tony Phipps, Operations Director, and dated 20 May 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 2.0:

It was requested that all settlement parties be consulted with as soon as practicable.

Waioira Northland Water progress – May 2013 (Item 3.0)
Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 20 May 2013.
A537783

Moved (Carr/Rossiter)

That the report “Waioira Northland Water progress – May 2013” by Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 20 May 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 3.0:

Operations Director, Tony Phipps, undertook to circulate Fonterra’s written response addressing the committee’s concern regarding the requirement for permanent fencing to ensure stock were kept out of waterways.

River Values Assessments - Update (Item 4.0)
Report from Darryl Jones, Economist, dated 21 May 2013.
A537153

Moved (Dalton/Hunt)

That the report “River Values Assessments – Update” by Darryl Jones, Economist, dated 21 May 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 4.0:

Ken Hughey, Professor of Environmental Management at Lincoln University and Project Leader for the River Values Assessment System (RiVAS), was in attendance and provided the presentation “The River Values Assessment System: Insights from trial applications to Northland Region” covering the following key points:

- the background and purpose of RiVAS;
- why use expert panels?;
- applications of RiVAS;
- examples of output;
- the ability to gather a “wealth of knowledge” for little cost and housed in one place; and
- initial outcomes from the three trial applications in Northland (swimming, natural character and native fish).

Darryl Jones, Economist, was also in attendance and gave the presentation “The Economic Value of Direct Water Use in Northland” covering the following key points:

- what elements make up the total economic value of water;
- base assumptions for the study and the pros and cons of this approach;
- the calculation of the direct market value of water based on price and quantity;
- potential uses for the data and possible next steps; and
- examples of similar work being conducted in New Zealand.

It was confirmed that a report on the three RiVAS trials in Northland would be provided to the July Environmental Management Committee meeting and at this time there would be the opportunity to discuss methodology and whether there was merit in other values being trialled.

There was the general expectation that economic assessment would be conducted concurrently with the RiVAS evaluations.

Mangere Catchment Group – Membership (Item 5.0)
Report from Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 21 May 2013.
A538237

Moved (Rossiter/Davies-Colley)

1. That the report “Mangere Catchment Group – Membership” by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 21 May 2013, be received.
2. That the nominations received to date for membership of the Mangere Catchment Group be accepted as follows:

Name	Representing
Cr Tony Davies-Colley	Environmental Management Committee
Mr Alan Clarkson	Environmental Management Committee - Farming representative
Cr Joe Carr (ex officio)	Environmental Management Committee
Mr David Coleman	Whāngārei District Council
Mr Royce Kokich	Dairy industry representative
Mr Denis Anderson	Dairy industry representative
Mr Shayne O’Shea	Dairy industry representative
Mr Gerry Brackenbury	Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust
Mr Roger Holder	Catchment resident

3. That staff proceed with organising the inaugural meeting of the Mangere Catchment Group, once appropriate nominations from iwi representatives have been received.
4. That a further report including confirmation of final nominations for membership of the Mangere Catchment Group be provided at the July committee meeting.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 5.0:

It was agreed that the Chairman of the Environmental Management Committee (EMC) would be ex-officio on all subcommittees appointed by the EMC.

It was suggested that dry stock farmers within the Mangere Catchment should be encouraged to have representation on the group.

Doubtless Bay Working Group – Membership (Item 6.0)
Report from Peter Wiessing, Kaitāia Area Manager, dated 21 May 2013.
A538363

Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)

1. That the report “Doubtless Bay Working Group – Membership” by Peter Wiessing, Kaitāia Area Manager, dated 21 May 2013 be received.
2. That the nominations received to date for membership of the Doubtless Bay Working Group be accepted as follows:

Name	Representing
Cr Bronwyn Hunt	Environmental Management Committee
Cr Joe Carr (ex officio)	Environmental Management Committee
Mr Peter Wiessing	Northland Regional Council – Kaitāia Area Office
Dr Greg Blunden	Environmental Management Committee – Environmental interest groups representative
Mr Murray Walden	Dairy industry representative
Mr Dennis O’Callaghan	Beef and sheep industry representative
Mr Lester Bridson	Department of Conservation
Mr Beau Mallet of Summit Northern Plantation Ltd	Forest industry representative
Mr Wayne Parsonson	Clean Waters to the Sea (Tokarau Community Catchment Project)

3. That staff proceed with organising the inaugural meeting of the Doubtless Bay Working Group, once appropriate nominations from additional representatives have been received.
4. That a further report including confirmation of final nominations for membership of the Doubtless Bay Working Group be provided at the July committee meeting.

Carried

Whāngārei Harbour Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder)
Advisory Group – Draft Terms of Reference (Item 7.0)
Report from Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 15 May 2013.
A537202

Moved (Christie/Clarkson)

1. That the report “Whāngārei Harbour Catchment (Collaborative Stakeholder) Advisory Group – Draft Terms of Reference” by Tony Phipps, Operations Director, dated 15 May 2013, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Davies-Colley/Jenkins)

2. That the committee confirms the draft terms of reference attached to the item, subject to the following addition:

Councillor Bill Rossiter shall be the Northland Regional Council’s representative on the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group.

Carried

Environment Fund Demand Pressures (Item 8.0)

Report by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 13 May 2013.

A536546

Moved (Rossiter/Davies-Colley)

That the report "Environment Fund Demand Pressures" by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager, dated 13 May 2013, be received.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 8.0:

Clarification was provided that a Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan did not infer the implementation of the plan would be funded from the Environment Fund. Furthermore, there were no barriers to prevent community groups applying for Environment Fund funding.

Community Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharges – Current Compliance Status (Updated) (Item 9.0)

Report from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 16 May 2013.

A296571

Moved (Hunt/Rossiter)

That the report "Community Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharges – Current Compliance Status (Updated)" from Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water and Wastes, dated 16 May 2013, be received.

Carried

State of the Environment Report for Northland 2007-2011 (Item 10.0)

Report from John Ballinger, Environmental Monitoring Programme Manager, dated 20 May 2013.

A533659

Moved (Rossiter/Hunt)

1. That the report "State of the Environment Report for Northland 2007-2011" by John Ballinger, Environment Monitoring Programme Manager, dated 20 May 2013, be received.
2. That the Environmental Management Committee support the public release of the State of the Environment Report for Northland 2007-2011, subject to any minor amendments.

Carried

Matters arising from Item 10.0:

John Ballinger, Environment Monitoring Programme Manager, was in attendance and provided the presentation "State of the Environment Report 2007-11" detailing what the environmental monitoring information was used for, a report overview, chapter layout and some key findings. It was anticipated the document would be publicly released within the following week.

Environmental Monitoring for the Period 1-24 April 2013

(Item 11.0)

**Report by Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, dated 13 May 2013.
A536059**

Moved (Clarkson/Dalton)

That the report "Environmental Monitoring for the Period 1-24 April 2013" from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, dated 13 May 2013, be received.

Carried

River Management Update (Item 12.0)

**Report from Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 13 May 2013.
A532921**

Moved (Carr/Blunden)

1. That the report "River Management Update" by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager, dated 13 May 2013, be received.
2. That the draft minutes from the Whāngārei Urban Rivers Liaison Committee meeting of 10 April 2013, and the draft minutes from the Awanui River Liaison Committee meeting of 22 March 2013 be received.

Carried

Update on Biosecurity Responses and Redirection of Budget to Meet the Fanworm Response (Item 13.0)

**Report by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 10 May 2013.
A537785**

Councillor Tony Davies-Colley declared a conflict of interest and abstained from participating in the discussion and voting.

Moved (Blunden/Clarkson)

1. That the report "Update on Biosecurity Responses and Redirection of Budget to Meet the Fanworm Response" by Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager, dated 10 May 2013, be received.
2. That the Environmental Management Committee supports the redirection of existing biosecurity budget to the Mediterranean fanworm response from less critical species programmes and reduced spending on new CPCAs.

Carried

Climate and Water Resources – Update (Item 14.0)
Report by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programme Manager,
dated 16 May 2013.
A537667

Moved (Rossiter/Booth)

That the report “Climate and Water Resources – Update” by Dale Hansen, Water Resources/Hydrology Programme Manager, dated 16 May 2013, be received.

Carried

Conclusion

The meeting closed at 12.04 pm.

ISSUE: Maori Representation – update

ID: A553077

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Tony Phipps, Operations Director

Date: 12 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress towards identifying a Maori Interests representative for the committee.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

Background:

Following the resignation of Nicole Anderson, Cultural Interests representative, the matter of an appointment of an appropriate representative was put to the Council in April. As a result, the Chairman wrote to the Iwi Chairs Forum on 6 May 2013 requesting they consider providing a nomination for the current vacancy.

Regrettably, the Iwi Chairs have yet to consider this matter. However the Iwi Chief Executives have met and have resolved to put a paper to the Iwi Chairs meeting, scheduled for 13 August, in which they will recommend appropriate nominees for the Chairs to consider. There is therefore the potential for a nominated representative to be available at the September committee meeting.

Legal Compliance and Significance Assessment:

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the council's 2012-2022 Long Term Plan, and as such are in accordance with the council's decision making process and sections 76 to 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 moderate to low significance under council policy because the report does not seek a decision other than that information be received.

Recommendation:

-
1. That the report Maori Representation – update by Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 12 July 2013 be received.
-

ISSUE: Waiora Northland Water Progress – July 2013

ID: A554431

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist - Water

Date: 16 July 2013

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

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Regulatory function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legislative function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/>	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low

BACKGROUND

As previously reported, Waiora 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.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

National Freshwater Policy

In a press release dated 10 July 2013, government has confirmed the first stage of freshwater reforms. A new freshwater collaborative planning option will be created in addition to the existing RMA Schedule 1 process, which will give communities and iwi a greater say in planning what they want for their local waterways and how they should be managed. It is expected that getting agreement from a representative group of catchment stakeholders upfront in the planning process will mean fewer debates and less litigation further down the track, saving time and money.

The government has also decided to improve the way in which iwi/Māori engage in freshwater planning, no matter whether councils decide to choose the collaborative option or the existing process.

Development of the National Objectives Framework, a tool to assist regions and communities to set freshwater objectives and limits in a consistent and well-targeted way, is also progressing at central government level. In the meantime, regions are expected to continue to progress Freshwater NPS implementation at regional and catchment level. These efforts may later need to be realigned to comply with national requirements following the introduction of the National Objectives Framework and associated RMA legislation. To mitigate this risk, and to benefit from policy innovation developed in other regions, staff continue to cultivate freshwater networks and collaborations with research organisations and other councils.

Sustainable Dairying

Following on from the committee's March 2013 meeting, which recommended that council become a "friend" of the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord", as developed by the national Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG), staff will now consider the detail of the Water Accord for further opportunities for alignment of objectives and collaboration with the industry on joint priorities. Further detail covering the Water Accord and waterway fencing requirements is provided in a separate agenda item.

Northland Effluent Improvement Project Group

At a regional level, the Northland Effluent Improvement Project group, made up of representatives from NRC, Fonterra, DairyNZ, Farmers of NZ, Federated Farmers, and other farmer representatives, met on 26 June 2013. Updates from the project group's key stakeholders and its working group's effluent improvement activities were presented at the meeting and further details are provided in a separate report in this agenda.

Proposed Regional Policy Statement

The Proposed Regional Policy Statement hearings are complete. Commissioners' recommendations are scheduled to be reported to council in September.

NPS FRESHWATER MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Waioira Northland Water Project Staff

The Waioira Northland Water policy team has initiated work on developing the policy process for establishing region-wide limits to water quality and allocation.

Technical and communications staff have prepared catchment specific water quality factsheets for Mangere Catchment and Doubtless Bay Working Group members. The factsheets and other catchment information will be mailed out in advance of the first meeting and will be available to the public within the Waioira Northland Water section of Council's website, currently undergoing redesign to incorporate an interactive catchment map.

Wetland Strategy

The EMC Wetland Working Group met 11 July 2013 and a progress report on wetlands is the subject of a separate report in this agenda.

Use and Values of Water – River Values Assessment System (RiVAS) trial and economic values

The three RiVAS reports for Northland (natural character, native fish and swimming) have been reviewed by panel members, maps have been generated, and final versions are currently being prepared by Lincoln University. Copies will be distributed to EMC members at the meeting or as soon as they become available.

Papers discussing the economic value of water used for dairy farming and non-human use values associated with rivers, (undertaken as part of a suite of studies commissioned by the Ministry for the Environment in Southland), have been delayed. The papers were due to be released at the end of June, and will now be available in August. Given the delays, discussion on the RiVAS and economic values reports, and next steps regarding the utilisation of RiVAS will now occur at the September EMC.

Progress towards setting Surface Water Quantity Limits

The council is required to set minimum flows/levels and allocation limits for all water bodies in Northland in accordance with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. This work complements the RiVAS assessment recently undertaken which ranked Northland's catchments based on native fish values. A presentation on the setting of regional default surface water quantity limits will be provided at the September Environmental Management Committee meeting.

The following is a brief summary of the work being undertaken to assist decision makers in setting flow and allocation limits at a priority catchment and regional level.

Priority Catchments - Base Line Ecological Flow Assessments

The council has contracted National Institute of Water (NIWA) to carry out instream habitat assessments in the Mangere, Waitangi, Hatea and Otaika catchments. This work will determine how much water is required in the stream to maintain ecological values and help inform decisions on minimum flows in the priority catchments. The results of this project are expected by October 2013.

Cumulative Take Assessments

A trial is also planned in the Waitangi and Mangere catchments to model the flows throughout the catchments resulting from takes, diversions and dams and how these flows are affected by different limit scenarios. This work builds on the "base line ecological flow assessments" and will help stakeholders and decisions makers understand the effects of setting limits throughout a catchment, particularly - when, where and for how long restrictions may occur on existing consents.

Regional Default Limits

There are a large number of rivers outside the priority catchments where there is limited water use and also limited information on which to establish specific limits. NRC has been investigating options for setting default water quantity limits across the region.

NIWA has prepared a report on "*Options for Setting Default Water Quantity Limits in Northland*". The report suggests that applying one default rule (flow and allocation limit) across Northland will result in very different outcomes on instream habitat and security of supply. Further assessment shows Northland can be separated into three potential management units based on river size and climate. Applying a different rule to each unit can reduce the differences in outcomes and can provide consistent management for users. This may be an appropriate approach for Northland to set limits for surface water bodies outside the priority catchments.

The report also shows the trade-offs between protecting instream habitat, making water available for use and security of supply. This will help communities understand what limits will best satisfy objectives for protection of instream habitat and reliability of supply, and provide for transparent decision making. Understanding these trade-offs will also be helpful for stakeholders and decision makers in the priority catchments.

PRIORITY CATCHMENTS AND OUTSTANDING WATERBODIES

Whāngārei Harbour Catchment

Northland Regional Council and Whāngārei District Council staff have been progressing the formation of the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group. Confirmation of final nominations for membership will be presented to the Environmental Management Committee meeting in September.

The Whāngārei Harbour Water Quality Improvement Strategy (the strategy) - the result of a joint Northland Regional Council – Whāngārei District Council project to better align and enhance our management of water quality in the Whāngārei Harbour - has been produced in full and summary version.

The strategy sets out what we know about the quality of water in the harbour, the known and likely impacts of water quality on its important uses and values, the sources of contamination, and the respective actions of both councils to maintain and improve its water quality.

Printed copies of the summary version of the strategy are available upon request and both versions are available to download from the Northland Regional Council website. A copy of the summary version of the strategy is separately attached to this agenda.

Mangere Catchment

Mangere Catchment Group will be holding its inaugural meeting on Tuesday 6 August 2013, at Kokopu School. A separate item in this agenda addresses further nominations received for the catchment group.

Doubtless Bay Working Group

Doubtless Bay Working Group will be holding its inaugural meeting on 31 July 2013, at Taipa Bay Resort. A separate item in this agenda addresses further nominations received for the group.

Kaipara Harbour Catchment

Meetings were held recently of the Kaipara Harbour Joint Political Committee, the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group and Freshwater Futures subcommittee, and a Kaipara Harbour Research Project update.

At its meeting in June, the Kaipara Harbour Joint Political Committee reached agreement and adopted wording for its vision statement. A number of presentations were given at the meeting, including a report and presentation on Kaipara Harbour Catchment Work Programmes by Tony Phipps, Deputy NRC CEO/Operations Director. The report is separately attached to this agenda for the committee's information.

Outstanding Waterbodies

Kai Iwi Lakes

The EMC previously endorsed that for purposes of NPS for Freshwater Management implementation, Kai Iwi Lakes is deemed an outstanding waterbody.

With EMC previously agreeing that council should work with existing structures where possible, staff took part in a Taharoa Domain Governance Committee (TDGC) workshop with Department of Conservation and Kaipara District Council staff. As part of discussions held at the 17 June 2013 workshop, it was agreed that draft Terms of Reference for a proposed Kai Iwi Lakes Catchment Group would be prepared, based upon the collaborative approach established for the Mangere Catchment.

TDGC considered the proposed Kai Iwi Lakes Catchment Group's draft Terms of Reference at their ordinary meeting held 24 June 2013. The TDGC resolved to endorse the draft Terms of Reference, subject to confining membership and voting rights of the catchment group to those in governance roles; including Northland Regional Council, Kaipara District Council, iwi, Department of Conservation and one community member.

Further negotiations will continue with TDGC on the basis of establishing a collaborative Terms of Reference with a representative membership for the proposed Kai Iwi Lakes Catchment Group, and for the group to be set up as a subcommittee reporting to both EMC and TDGC.

CONTRIBUTING PROGRAMMES

Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans as of 9 July 2013

Status of FWQIP	Far North	Kaipara	Whāngārei	Total
Completed	42	5	32	79
In Progress	38	10	44	92
Total FWQIP's	80	15	76	171

Enviroschools WaiRestoration project – progress report

As reported to the committee in March, an Enviroschools WaiRestoration project pilot is taking place in Northland this year. This project aims to support farmers and engage young people and local communities in the restoration of waterways and biodiversity.

The latest WaiRestoration initiative – a newly-formed teacher leadership group – held its first meeting in Whāngārei on 11 July. Its membership includes five primary and five secondary teachers from Dargaville, Kaikohe, Kaitāia, Mangakāhia, Ōhaeawai, Otaika and Ruāwai. Two of this group's key aims will be to develop WaiRestoration case studies tracking what is happening in local communities and to develop a published resource based on each project component for future use in Northland and nationally.

Other work carried out under the WaiRestoration banner has included a professional development course for school communities in March and WaiFencing skills workshops in late May.

The day-long WaiFencing skills workshops were aimed at equipping young people with the abilities to fence stock out of waterways. The workshops saw 59 senior secondary students, and their teachers, from 11 Northland communities learning and practising techniques and knowledge related to fencing and environmental awareness and action. Subsequent to the skills workshops, students will practise what they have learnt and attend an assessment workshop day in August. In addition to constructing new fences, successful students will receive NCEA unit standards relating to replacing broken posts, repairing broken wires, fencing knots and ties, maintenance of equipment and electric fencing. There is also the opportunity for schools and students to set up related small businesses and take up fencing contracts with local farmers. Schools are paying \$250 per student to participate in WaiFencing. As part of the related assessment workshops, some of the students will be involved in constructing fences on the council's Flyger Road property.

The professional development course introduced the WaiRestoration project and six of its seven components, through practical workshops, to teachers, principals and school community members. The six components were: WaiNurseries, WaiPlanting, WaiMaintenance, WaiMonitoring, WaiEnterprise and Save a Species.

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 Freshwater implementation adopted in May 2012 as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

Recommendation:

1. That the report Waiora Northland Water progress by Natalie Glover, Policy Specialist – Water and dated 16 July 2013, be received.
-

ISSUE: Mangere Catchment Group – update; further nominations for membership

ID: A552216

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager

Date: 8 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress with the Mangere Catchment Group and additional membership nominations received. It concludes with the recommendations that the information be received and additional nominations for membership be accepted.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

Background:

At its meeting on 26 March 2013, the committee confirmed the Terms of Reference for the Mangere Catchment Group. This report provides further updates on nominations received for group membership and details of its inaugural meeting.

The following ***nominations have been accepted*** by the committee (both at its meeting on 26 March and subsequently at its meeting on 28 May):

Name	Representing
Cr Tony Davies-Colley	Environmental Management Committee
Mr Alan Clarkson	Environmental Management Committee - Farming representative
Cr Joe Carr (ex officio)	Environmental Management Committee
Mr David Coleman	Whangarei District Council
Mr Royce Kokich	Dairy industry representative
Mr Denis Anderson	Dairy industry representative
Mr Shayne O'Shea	Dairy industry representative
Mr Gerry Brackenbury	Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust
Mr Roger Holder	Catchment resident

The following are ***further nominations*** received for membership of the Mangere Catchment Group:

George Tuhiwai	Iwi representative Te Parawhau
Allan Halliday	Iwi representative Ngāti Hau
Hona Edwards	Iwi representative Te Urioroi
Tania Pene	Iwi representative Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngahpuhi
Rob Pye	Non-dairying farming representative

A date for the inaugural meeting of the group has been set for **6 August 2013 at 6.30pm at Kokopu School** and invitations were sent on Friday 5 July 2013, along with the agenda and terms of reference. The letters also advised of nomination approvals by council for those who have been approved.

Legal compliance and significance assessment:

The information provided in this report and its recommendations comply 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 Catchment Group are likely to be of greater significance and will need to be considered separately.

Recommendations:

1. That the report Mangere Catchment Group - update; further nominations for membership by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager and dated 8 July 2013, be received.
2. That the further nominations received for membership of the Mangere Catchment Group be accepted as follows:

George Tuhiwai	Iwi representative Te Parawhau
Allan Halliday	Iwi representative Ngāti Hau
Hona Edwards	Iwi representative Te Urirotoi
Tania Pene	Iwi representative Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngahpuhi
Rob Pye	Non-dairying farming representative

ISSUE: Doubtless Bay Working Group – update; further nominations for membership

ID: A552180

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Peter Wiessing, Kaitaia Area Manager

Date: 8 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to update the committee on progress of the Doubtless Bay Working Group and additional membership nominations received. It concludes with the recommendations that the information be received and additional nominations for membership accepted.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

Background:

At its meeting on 26 March 2013, the committee confirmed the Terms of Reference for the Doubtless Bay Working Group. This report provides further updates on nominations received for group membership and details of its inaugural meeting.

The following ***nominations have been accepted*** by the committee (both at its meeting on 26 March and subsequently at its meeting on 28 May):

Name	Representing
Cr Bronwyn Hunt	Environmental Management Committee
Cr Di Maxwell FNDC	Far North District Council Councillor representative
Mr Peter Wiessing	Northland Regional Council – Kaitaia Area Office
Dr Greg Blunden	Environmental Management Committee – Environmental interest groups representative
Mr Murray Walden	Dairy industry representative
Mr Dennis O’Callaghan	Beef and sheep industry representative
Mr Lester Bridson	Department of Conservation
Mr Beau Mallet of Summit Northern Plantation Ltd	Forest industry representative
Mr Wayne Parsonson	Clean Waters to the Sea (Tokarau Community Catchment Project)

The following are ***further nominations*** received for membership of the Doubtless Bay Working Group. The committee will note that Clara Lugnet has been nominated to represent both Doubtless Bay Promotions Inc and Te Hiku Community Board (as a catchment ratepayer).

ITEM: 5

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David Penny or Jim Brooks	Far North District Council wastewater and stormwater representative
Clara Lugnet Gerald Messenger	Two Doubtless Bay catchment ratepayers to be nominated by Te Hiku Community Board
Clara Lugnet	Doubtless Bay Promotions Inc

The following nominations **are yet to be confirmed**. The committee should note that Ngai Takoto iwi have advised that they will not be putting forward a nomination, preferring to leave the iwi representation to Ngati Kahu and Whaingaroa. Council staff are currently communicating with both Ngati Kahu and Waingaroa to assist the nomination process.

<i>(nomination awaited)</i>	Doubtless Bay Marine Protection Group
<i>(nomination awaited)</i>	Iwi representative Ngati Kahu
<i>(nomination awaited)</i>	Iwi representative Whaingaroa

A date for the inaugural meeting of the group has been set for **31 July 2013 at 10am at Taipa Bay Resort** and invitations were sent on 4 July, along with the agenda and terms of reference. The letters also advised of nomination approvals by council for those who have been approved.

Legal compliance and significance assessment:

The information provided in this report and its recommendations comply 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).

Recommendations:

1. That the report Doubtless Bay Working Catchment Group – update; further nominations for membership by Peter Wiessing, Kaitia Area Manager and dated 8 July 2013, be received.
2. That the further nominations received for membership of the Doubtless Bay Working Group be accepted as follows:

Name	Representing
David Penny or Jim Brooks	Far North District Council wastewater and stormwater representative
Clara Lugnet Gerald Messenger	Two Doubtless Bay catchment ratepayers to be nominated by Te Hiku Community Board
Clara Lugnet	Doubtless Bay Promotions Inc

ISSUE: Dairy Industry Water Accord and Waterway Fencing Requirements

ID: A553723

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Tony Phipps, Operations Director and Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager

Date: 12 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the dairy industry's recently published Water Accord and its relevance to Northland Regional Council work programmes.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

Background:

The committee will recall that at its March 2013 meeting, it received the "Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord – a commitment to New Zealand by the dairying sector", as developed by the national Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG). The committee recommended to the council that it support the Accord by becoming a "Friend of the Accord". The council committed to this action at its meeting of 16 April 2013.

Update:

The Water Accord, with its commitments and targets to enhance the performance of dairy farming as it affects freshwater, is one of the first actions of a new dairy industry strategy, *Making Dairy Farming Work for Everyone*,¹ which was launched on 9 July and is aimed at enabling farmers to build economically sustainable businesses alongside a strong focus on environmental actions.

This new strategy has been developed by industry body DairyNZ, in partnership with the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ), the Federated Farmers of New Zealand dairy section and the Dairy Women's Network. It sets out 10 objectives including proactive environmental stewardship and wise use of natural resources, providing a world-class on-farm work environment and ensuring talented people are attracted to the industry. Research to develop innovative technologies and solutions is also a key objective.

The Water Accord, as released on 9 July is **attached** for committee's information, together with a summary sheet and FAQs.

Staff will now consider the detail of the Accord for further opportunities for alignment of objectives and collaboration with the industry on joint priorities. Staff will also consider

¹ http://www.dairynz.co.nz/page/pageid/2145862755/Dairy_Industry_Strategy

and report back to the committee on the need and possible scope for a “regional programme of action” (RPoA) as provided for in the Accord.²

An option for considering and if need be developing a RPoA would be to expand the scope of work of the joint council/dairy industry Northland Effluent Improvement Project Group. That group already includes council and representatives of most of the major stakeholders in the Accord. Staff will consult with the Accord partners and NEIP group members on this option and report back to the Environmental Management Committee.

Permanent Fencing:

Following the March committee meeting, Fonterra was approached to clarify its intention with regard to requiring ‘permanent fencing’ of waterways, following concerns raised by members over the appropriateness of certain types of fencing in a range of circumstances. Fonterra’s response is as provided below.

“We require permanent fencing as our experience suggests that relying on temporary methods is ineffective at maintaining consistent stock exclusion. It is also difficult to monitor and enforce and relying on temporary methods would be unlikely to meet the expectations of our community and stakeholders.

“We do however acknowledge that there are areas where permanent fencing is not practical to achieve due to the risk of flooding and there is a process to allow for dispensations to be granted in these cases. In the event of a request being made due to the Councils concerns about the impacts on a flood scheme, this would need to be supported by a request in writing from the Council and if granted would likely require the use of temporary fencing to exclude stock from the waterways.

“We’re currently looking at the options of flexible fencing systems and polywire for a similar situation in the Manawatu, and we’d be happy to discuss the applicability of such systems in your region.

“We acknowledge your concerns around invasive pest plants but have no evidence to suggest that this is causing issues that are not manageable. If there are areas of particular concern and it can be demonstrated that grazing would alleviate these issues then again, a dispensation may be considered. It would likely be subject to conditions to manage the impacts on water quality.”

Fonterra’s definition of a permanent fence is a fence that:

- Effectively excludes stock (can be a single hotwire if that is effective)
- Protects the banks of the waterway
- Is permanent – this means posts and/or waratahs and wire that is permanently tied off. Tape, reels and pig tail standards are not okay.
- In flood prone areas only – flexible fencing systems with polywire such as the Taragate solution developed with Tom Pow that uses plastic waratahs that are flexible or the KiwiTech system that utilises flexible fibreglass poles. The polywire must still be permanently tied off and reinstated following floods.

This response is in line with the council’s current approach/advice provided by land management staff. In the situations where more ‘temporary fencing’ is deemed

² Refer Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord (page 4) Regional Programmes)

appropriate eg some flood scheme areas, landowners would need the written support of council to seek the appropriate dispensation from Fonterra. Landowners would also need to seek dispensation to carry out 'managed grazing' of riparian strips created by stock exclusion fencing, where weed control has been identified as a significant issue that cannot be managed cost effectively by other means.

At this stage council staff consider this to be a manageable regime. However if there are significant implementation problems, they will be reported.

Incentives for riparian planting

In a press release dated 11 July 2013, central government has announced it has amended the Income Tax Act 2007 to allow farmers to deduct riparian plantings as an operational expense.

The change allows deductions for trees, shrubs and other plantings to prevent or mitigate discharges into water courses or water bodies and will enhance incentives already available for environmental protection activities in the Northland region, such as the Environment Fund.

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 Waioira Northland Water programme this matter is considered to have low significance.

Recommendation:

1. That the report Dairy Industry Strategy and Water Accord by Tony Phipps, Operations Director dated 12 July 2013 be received.
 2. That staff report back on the need and possible scope of a Water Accord "regional programme of action" and on the option of increasing the scope of the Northland Effluent Improvement Project Group to include development of such a programme.
-

Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord

A Commitment to New Zealand
by the Dairy Sector



Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord

The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord (the Accord) has been developed under the oversight of the Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG). DELG includes representatives from farmers, dairy companies, central government, regional councils and the Federation of Māori Authorities.

Accountable Partners

In accordance with this Accord the following parties have specific responsibilities and are accountable for delivering the commitments and monitoring and reporting as specified. They undertake to carry out those responsibilities in good faith and to the best of their abilities.



Supporting Partners

Supporting Partners make commitments to the outcomes of this Accord in support of the Accountable Partners.



Friends of the Accord

Friends of the Accord are supportive of the purpose of this Accord and commit to contribute to its success in the spirit of collaboration.

- Westland Milk Products
- Regional/Unitary Councils: Northland Regional Council; Auckland Council; Waikato Regional Council; Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Hawke's Bay Regional Council; Gisborne District Council; Taranaki Regional Council; Horizons Regional Council; Greater Wellington Regional Council; Environment Canterbury; West Coast Regional Council; Marlborough District Council; Tasman District Council; Otago Regional Council; Environment Southland
- The Federation of Māori Authorities
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry for the Environment

Purpose, Vision & Approach

The purpose of this Accord is to:

Enhance the overall performance of dairy farming as it affects freshwater by:

- Committing to good management practices expected of 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.

...And in so doing ensure the dairy sector contributes responsibly to realising the vision for New Zealand's waterways.

Vision

Underpinning the Accord is a common desire of the signatories to recognise, protect and, where opportunities exist, enhance the many benefits and experiences New Zealanders enjoy in freshwater. These include fishing, swimming, recreating, gathering mahinga kai and provision of habitat for aquatic species as well as the ability to use water for social, cultural and economic betterment. The Accord refers to these as freshwater values and interests.

These values and interests have shaped the high-level goal or "vision" to which this Accord contributes:

Our waterways continue to provide for the full range of values and interests enjoyed by New Zealanders.

Approach

The vision will be promoted by managing land and water use to contribute to achieving the water quality desired by New Zealanders and profitable, competitive and sustainable agriculture. For the dairy sector this will be delivered by a commitment to:

- build a culture of continuous improvement in on-farm performance relating to natural resource use
- develop partnerships with Māori agribusiness and an understanding of how the principle of kaitiakitanga/guardianship can be reflected in practice
- develop partnerships with other stakeholders including communities and community groups, researchers and other relevant government and non-government agencies to promote and support the ethic of stewardship and build effective management tools and technologies

- reduce the impact of existing dairy farms in catchments where desired values have been significantly compromised by dairying
- ensure new dairying implements good practice in environmental management from the time of conversion.

Subject to five yearly reviews, progress against this vision will be measured by the extent to which the individual commitments specified in this Accord are delivered.

How the Accord contributes

This Accord is an expression of the dairy sector's commitment to industry self-improvement. It also recognises that the dairy sector's actions and expectations do not exist in isolation of other parties. Success in achieving the vision and delivering better water quality depends upon a range of parties working with a common understanding of the issues and challenges and pursuing shared vision and aligned actions. In this way the Accord is an expression of collective responsibility across the dairy sector and a wider range of stakeholders.

Sustainable dairying – lifting the game

DairyNZ has joined with other dairy industry organisations including Federated Farmers, the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand and the Dairy Women's Network to produce a new refreshed strategy for sustainable dairy farming, *Making Dairy Farming Work for Everyone*.

Dairy farming needs to be seen to work for all New Zealanders. The strategy is therefore centred around dairy farming being both competitive and responsible. This means being competitive in a local and global sense – and responsible today and tomorrow.

This Accord contributes to that wider aspiration and in particular to the strategy's objective of environmental stewardship and wise use of natural resources. It takes a vital step by positioning the sector to cope with a future that will focus on managing water within limits, recognising that expectations of performance will evolve over time.

Visit www.dairynz.co.nz/strategyrefresh for more information.

Background

The importance of New Zealand's freshwater is undeniable. Recent years have seen a heightened call for action as our rivers, lakes and wetlands have been subject to new pressures and competing demands. The 2003 Dairying and Clean Stream Accord (DCSA) was one of the first major industry efforts to extend beyond regulatory bottomlines, engage with other stakeholders and take responsibility for doing better.

Since that first DCSA the focus on water has sharpened further. The Government issued the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management, many regional councils have issued new regional plans and co-governance in different forms has emerged. The Land and Water Forum was also established to foster collaboration between multiple stakeholders and build a durable way forward in tackling land and water challenges and opportunities.

This Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord builds on, and effectively succeeds, the successful DCSA that ran from 2003 until 2012. It seeks a further step change in the management of risks to waterways posed by dairying. In doing so it recognises the costs that accrue where freshwater values and interests are compromised. There are benefits in maintaining healthy waterways both for the dairy sector and its reputation as a high quality, sustainable food producer, and for all current and future New Zealanders.

How this Accord works

This document includes expectations and commitments.

- **Expectations** are what the signatories to this document expect over the medium to long term. They are in the nature of goals that set a direction of travel in addressing water issues as we move ahead. Expectations are not, however, enforceable performance measures as they are seldom within the direct control of any one Accountable Partner.
- **Commitments** are those measures (e.g. programmes or other initiatives and associated resourcing commitments) that parties pledge to the realisation of expectations. Commitments are distinguished according to whether they are made by DairyNZ (on behalf of the sector as a whole), by dairy companies (on behalf of their supplier farmers) or by Supporting Partners.

The Accord also clearly sets out what monitoring and reporting is to occur, by whom and according to what timeframe. Although fixed timeframes are set, the nature of the issues means that the commitment to maintain and enhance water needs to be for the long term. Timeframes and commitments will require refreshing over time.

Words followed by an asterisk (*) are defined in the Glossary at the end of this document.

Local partnerships and initiatives

This Accord cannot deal in detail with all the circumstances, issues and opportunities that exist in the many varied catchments throughout New Zealand. It also doesn't seek to capture the full range of sector responses to its environmental sustainability challenges. Individual dairy companies and DairyNZ have their own sustainability strategies and programmes that target water issues and which will be critical to the implementation of this Accord.

Further, some responses and solutions need to be addressed at the catchment scale. The opportunity for local partnerships focused on specific issues and challenges remains a likely and necessary way forward in some places. This may also mean that other land uses and industries will need to be involved if public expectations for water are to be met in full. The dairy sector is already involved in catchment scale programmes and that effort will continue.

Relationship to Resource Management Act (1991)

This Accord cannot, and does not purport to, substitute for the control of land and water by government agencies and regional councils under the Resource Management Act 1991, the associated National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management (NPSFM) or current or future national environmental standards. As noted earlier, this Accord is emerging at a time when regional councils are fundamentally overhauling the management of water in response to the NPSFM.

The commitments made in this Accord, while attempting to reflect expectations of good practice dairying, may not as a result of the application of the NPSFM, be regarded by regional councils as an adequate response to some, or all, dairying and environment issues faced in all or parts of their regions. Accordingly, regional councils must reserve the right to exercise their statutory functions, duties and rights as they consider appropriate in the regional context.

Regional programmes

Although regional councils are friends of this Accord, where they have policies, rules or voluntary targets or programmes in place those must have priority. Nothing in this Accord is to be read as derogating from those existing rules or programmes. Where such a situation exists, or is likely to exist in the future, regional councils may work with the accountable and supporting partners to produce a *regional programme of action*. This programme will align the Accord targets with those expected at the regional or sub-regional level ensuring that all parties have clear expectations.

Overview of Key Commitments

Nature of Commitment	
DairyNZ	Design and promote tools and resources that build capacity throughout the dairy sector to enable full and timely completion of the commitments made in this Accord.
Dairy Companies	Design and implement programmes to encourage and support supplier farms to make changes necessary to meet the targets specified in this Accord.
DCANZ	Act as secretariat for the administration of this Accord including the collation of data for reporting to the Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG).
Fertiliser Association of New Zealand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballance Agri-Nutrients • Ravensdown Co-operative 	<p>Continue, in partnership with the dairy sector and, where applicable, other Supporting Partners, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support farmers in good nutrient management practice • gather robust and comprehensive data on nutrient use and nutrient use management practices on dairy farms • invest in the continuous improvement of nutrient modelling tools. <p>Continue to invest in research into the optimal nutrient uptake by pasture and minimisation of nutrient loss from the farm system.</p>
Federated Farmers	<p>Continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a strong farmer voice and leadership across the whole agricultural sector on workable, practical and equitable responses to water issues • support and promote the value and importance of this Accord through its membership and in public forums. <p>Provide “eyes and ears” feedback to DELG on implementation issues and work constructively and respectfully within the framework and processes established under the Accord to raise and resolve any such issues.</p>
Irrigation NZ	Continue to build capacity in the irrigation sector to define and deliver good management practice in water use.
New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management	Promote the expectations and commitments made under this Accord to its members and ensure that continuing professional development of its membership has due regard to this Accord.
Regional Councils	Engage with the dairy sector in the development and implementation of regional programmes of action to identify specific opportunities for co-coordinated and mutually beneficial action targeted at shared goals.
Federation of Māori Authorities	<p>Continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide voice and leadership for Māori agribusiness as major contributors to Aotearoa New Zealand’s primary industries • work collaboratively and develop innovation to increase land utilisation, productivity and performance within resilient business models and sustainable practices • seek durable solutions to the harvest, access, use and quality of water as an enabler of sustainable economic prosperity for Aotearoa New Zealand • have a long term focus on sustainable economic prosperity through the best use of resources and assets to create wealth and well-being • develop further partnerships between Māori agribusiness and the dairy sector • participate in the Dairy Environment Leadership Group.
Government agencies (to the extent that commitments fall within individual agencies’ functions and responsibilities)	<p>Continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise sustainable dairy farming as critical to New Zealand’s economic well-being and a legitimate and valued land use • support research that will provide the dairy sector with the tools and knowledge to enable a reduction in the freshwater footprint of dairying • support policy research and innovation aimed at identifying the optimal approaches to managing the impacts of dairying by securing wise use of resources and socially durable resource management decisions • work with the sector to explore and unlock the potential for dairy growth and enhanced water management through, for example, irrigation schemes.

Riparian Management

Expectations

- Dairy farms will exclude dairy cattle from significant waterways and significant wetlands.
- Riparian planting will occur where it would provide a water quality benefit.
- The crossing of waterways by dairy cows will not result in degradation of those waterways.

Dairy companies will:

Implement measures to exclude dairy cattle from waterways* and drains* greater than one metre in width and deeper than 30 cm and significant wetlands* on dairy farms* according to the following phase-in timetable.

For waterways and drains

- 90% exclusion of the length present on dairy farms by 31 May 2014; and
- 100% of the length present on dairy farms¹ by 31 May 2017.

For significant wetlands

- 100% exclusion of all wetlands identified by a regional council as at 31 May 2012 by 31 May 2014; and
- 100% exclusion of any additional regionally significant wetlands present on dairy farms within three years of them being identified by the regional council.

Encourage dairy farmers to

- exclude dairy cattle from all wetlands; and
- apply the stock exclusion commitment to third party grazing land as if it were their own land.

Implement measures to ensure 100% of regular stock crossing points* are either bridged or culverted by 31 May 2018.

Introduce measures to achieve progressive planting of the length of waterways* within or bounding dairy farms from which there is stock exclusion* where planting will contribute to water quality enhancement according to the following phase-in schedule:

- 50% of dairy farms with waterways will have a riparian management plan* by 31 May 2016 and all of these farms will have completed
 - half of their riparian management plan commitments by 31 May 2020
 - full implementation of their riparian management plan by 31 May 2030
- 100% of all dairy farms with waterways will have a riparian management plan* by 31 May 2020.

Promote and facilitate (including through partnerships with other organisations) riparian planting to enhance ecosystem health (on-going).

DairyNZ will:

Systematically prepare (in partnership with regional councils) regionally tailored riparian management guidelines² to promote stream health and water quality according to the following timetable.

Guidelines completed for³:

- Three regions completed by 31 May 2014
- Nine regions by 31 May 2015
- All regions by 31 May 2016.

¹Stock exclusion from streams smaller than one metre in width and 30cm in depth may be negotiated as part of regional programmes of action where necessary to maintain or enhance particular freshwater values and interests in specific localities.

²The preparation of guidelines will be prioritised according to the presence of priority catchments determined by the state of/risk to water quality and by the introduction of limits on contaminant loads from diffuse discharges.

³Such guidelines will include recommended setback/planting width, planting density and plant species and well as the recommended means by which the extent of planting should be monitored.

*See Glossary for definitions on page 14.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- Length of stock excluded waterway/area of significant wetland and the length of any dispensations* (reported annually).
- The percentage of regular stock crossings that have bridges or culverts and any dispensations* (reported annually).
- Extent of riparian margin planted on-farm and through industry/community partnerships (e.g off-farm planting) (reported biennially)

DairyNZ will report:

- Progress on the development of riparian management guidelines (reported biennially).

Nutrient Management

Expectation

- 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.

Dairy companies will:

Collect data from all dairy farmers (using agreed protocols and consistent data collection systems*) and model N loss and N conversion efficiency from those farms according to the following phase-in timetable:

- 85% of dairy farms by 31 May 2014
- 100% of dairy farms by 31 May 2015.

Provide N loss and N conversion efficiency performance information back to dairy farmers along with performance benchmarking, according to the following phase-in timetable:

- 85% of dairy farms by 30 November 2014
- 100% of dairy farms by 30 November 2015.

In catchments recorded in an operative regional plan as being fully allocated in nutrient assimilative capacity terms, either:

- reduce, as appropriate, the average per hectare N and/or P loss (with N modelled using Overseer®); and/or
- engage in catchment programmes that seek to improve water quality outcomes in receiving waters using specified on-farm and/or catchment scale good management practices.

Manage P loss risk associated with sediment discharge, run off and overland flows by:

- Meeting the stock exclusion and riparian management commitments (by dates specified in Section 5 of this Accord)
- Ensuring that 100% of races and regular stock crossing points* over all waterways have bridges or culverts (by dates specified in the Riparian Management section of this Accord)
- Promoting good practice in the on-farm management of tracks, races and winter cropping (on-going)

- Promoting good practice in effluent management and meeting the effluent management commitments (by dates specified in the Effluent Management section of this Accord).

DairyNZ will:

By 31 May 2013 develop an audited nitrogen management system that will enable dairy companies to model nitrogen loss on supplier dairy farms in a robust manner according to agreed protocols and consistent data collection systems.

Assist dairy companies to present meaningful information to their suppliers by collating information from multiple companies for benchmarking purposes.

Enhance the ability to make cost effective changes in farm systems that reduce nutrient loss by:

- Supporting relevant research
- Ensuring quality nutrient management advice is available
- Ensure proven cost effective solutions are available to farmers too (on-going).

By 31 May 2013 DairyNZ will (in partnership with the fertiliser industry) develop and promote a nutrient management adviser and certification programme aimed at improving the quality and availability of specialist nutrient management advice.

Supporting Partners:

Fertiliser companies and the **New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management** will:

- provide nutrient budgeting/management planning services to dairy farmers as part of the commercial relationship between customers and fertiliser supply.

Fertiliser companies will:

- partner with dairy companies to collect nutrient use/management information from dairy farmers
- ensure 10% of Fertiliser Association of New Zealand member company nutrient management advisers are certified by 31 May 2013 and 50% by 31 May 2014.

*See Glossary for definitions on page 14.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- Progress with implementation of the data collection programme
- The average N loss per hectare (by region and/or catchment) as modelled using Overseer (initially for 2013/2014 with a progress update every three years using a five-year rolling average once data is available).
- Actions and resources devoted to the promotion of good practice in nutrient management (reported every three years).

DairyNZ will report:

- Actions and resources devoted to research and the development of nutrient management tool development and promotion.
- Progress with the development and implementation of a nutrient management adviser and certification programme including the numbers of people trained and certified as nutrient management advisers (reported annually).

Effluent Management

Expectations

- Dairy farms will comply with regional council effluent management rules and/or resource consent conditions.
- Effluent systems installed on dairy farms will be fit for purpose and able to achieve 365-day compliance with applicable rules.

Dairy companies will:

Arrange for the assessment of supplier dairy farms on a three yearly basis to review compliance (or ability to comply) with regulatory requirements (resource consents and regional plan rules). For farms identified as being at risk of non-compliance, a farm specific management plan shall be put in place to ensure 365-day compliance. An annual assessment will be undertaken until such time as the management plan is fully implemented and non-compliance risk is remedied.

This three yearly assessment programme is to be delivered according to the following timetable:

- 85% of farms are being assessed by 31 May 2013
- 100% of farms are being assessed by 31 May 2014.

By 31 May 2014 introduce programmes to reduce reliance on discharges to water from two-pond Farm Dairy Effluent (FDE) treatment systems in areas where land application would result in improved water quality outcomes.

DairyNZ will:

Build excellence in the design, construction and maintenance of effluent (including sludges and slurries) management infrastructure by developing and/or promoting:

- Industry design and construction code of practice and standards (by 31 November 2012 with promotion on-going)
- A training and accreditation scheme for effluent industry (by 31 November 2012 with promotion on-going)
- Pond construction training /design guidance (by 31 November 2012 with promotion on-going)
- A FDE system warrant of fitness scheme available as a tool for farmers (by 31 May 2014).

Build excellence in the operation of FDE systems by:

- Ensuring there is high quality training available for those operating FDE systems.
- Promoting as a matter of good practice that people new to the industry have participated in FDE training (such as that currently offered by the Primary Industry Training Organisation) before having responsibility for operating FDE systems.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- The size and nature of the programme to provide three yearly farm dairy effluent assessment and any significant change to that programme (one off reporting in 2013 with further updates as required).

DairyNZ will monitor and report:

- The number of people who have completed effluent system designer training certification and the number of companies with accreditation for effluent design services (reported biennially).
- Actions and resources promoting the use of certified people in FDE management (reported every three years commencing 2013).
- The number of people who have completed the Primary Industry Training Organisation effluent management course or other relevant courses established in accordance with DairyNZ's commitment to building excellence in the operation of FDE operating systems (reported biennially).
- The rate of compliance (based on regional council reported significant non compliance* and, to the extent possible, on type of compliance failure) with regional councils' effluent rules and resource consent conditions.

Water Use Management

Expectations

- Dairy sheds will use no more water for wash down and milk cooling than that necessary to produce hygienic and safe milk.
- Irrigation systems will be designed and operated to minimise the amount of water needed to meet production objectives.

Dairy companies will:

By 31 May 2014:

- Introduce programmes to assist dairy farmers to meet national and local regulation controlling water takes
- Commit to requiring 85% of all dairy farms (including all significant water users) to install water meters by 2020.

DairyNZ will:

Promote water use efficiency in the farm dairy and in the reticulation of stock drinking water, through in particular promotion of the existing Smart Water Use programme (on-going).

Promote the installation and use of water meters to measure water use in the farm dairy (on-going).

By May 31 2015 institute on-farm trials to better understand the volumes of water being used for shed wash down and milk cooling for a range of shed types and under different seasonal and geographical conditions.

Work with, and support, Irrigation NZ on the Irrigation

Good Management Practice programme as detailed below and promote that programme through extension channels (on-going).

Supporting Partners:

Irrigation NZ will develop and promote a capacity building and good practice assurance programme.

This programme will build excellence in the design, installation and commissioning of irrigation infrastructure by developing and promoting:

- Design Code of Practice and standards and design audit procedure
- A training and accreditation scheme for irrigation design companies
- A training scheme for irrigation installers
- A training and accreditation scheme for evaluators
- A irrigation system commissioning report by a certified evaluator for all new and replacement irrigation systems certifying that installation is in accordance with design.

It will also build excellence in the operation of irrigation systems by ensuring:

- Irrigation system operator training
- Annual calibration of irrigation systems and a five yearly audit by a certified evaluator
- Online resources to enable irrigators to easily determine and benchmark their system performance
- An 80% beneficial use performance benchmark.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- The number of dairy farms that have water meters installed (reported annually from 2014/15).
- Programmes and resources devoted to encouraging compliance with national and local regulation (reported annually from 2014/15).

DairyNZ will monitor and report:

- The results of the water use trials.
- The number of people who have completed irrigation system designer, evaluator and operator training (reported biennially).
- The number of companies with accreditation for irrigation system design services and who hold a National Certificate in Irrigation Evaluation (reported biennially).

Conversions

Expectations

- New dairy farms establish and operate using good practice at the outset to minimise potential negative consequences on water values and interests.
- New dairy conversions will comply with all relevant regional plan rules and/or hold all necessary resource consents.

Dairy companies will:

From 31 May 2013, ensure that new dairy farm conversions* comply with the following standards before milk collection commences:

- Dairy farms must have systems in place to manage all sources of effluent to ensure compliance with relevant regulatory obligations 365 days a year.
- All animal races are to have bridges or culverts when crossing all waterways* and drains*.
- Animals are to be excluded from waterways* and drains* that are at any point within the boundary of the dairy farm* wider than one metre and deeper than 30cm.
- Dairy farms must have a nutrient management plan* in place.
- All required regulatory consents have been sought (including consents for water take and use/irrigation).
- From 31 May 2015 ensure that all new dairy farm conversions* have a riparian management plan* in place before milk collection commences.

DairyNZ will:

Work with rural professionals to ensure the expectations of new dairy farms are understood by those advising on conversions* and factored into the advice given in conversion decision-making process (on-going).

By 31 May 2014 produce published material that explains the industry good practice obligations for conversions* (including regionally-specific practices) and additional recommended practices (including in particular practices in relation to wetlands). It will also make that material available to relevant organisations (including regional councils, dairy companies and rural professionals).

Supporting Partners:

Federated Farmers will promote good industry practice through membership publications and other relevant communications including providing recognition of outstanding examples of sustainable dairy conversions.

The New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management will promote continuing professional development opportunities for rural professionals that include raising awareness of industry good practice obligations for dairy conversions and how these obligations are most appropriately implemented.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will monitor and report:

- The pre-supply check procedures in place and audit results that ensure 100% compliance (reported biennially).

DairyNZ will monitor and report:

- The initiatives to engage with rural professionals and raise awareness of issues relating to dairy conversions* (reported biennially).

*See Glossary for definitions on page 14.

Governance & Administrative Matters

Oversight and review

The Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG) will continue to maintain oversight of the Accord. It will undertake a review of the adequacy and continued appropriateness of the Accord commitments every five years with the first review to commence before the end of 2017. To the extent possible, five yearly reviews will consider the contribution made to the vision as expressed in the Purpose, Vision and Approach section of this Accord.

Collective responsibility for compliance

All dairy companies agree there is a collective responsibility for ensuring compliance with this Accord and that they will act in the common interest of this Accord in the event that a supplier farm seeks to change dairy company in response to efforts by that dairy company to ensure compliance with this Accord.

Communication and collaboration

Accountable Partners will meet annually with Supporting Partners to share information regarding any issues associated with the Accord and its implementation. Such meetings will aim to strengthen the relationship between the dairy sector and supporting partners and build a sense of collaboration and trust.

Monitoring and reporting

Dairy companies will provide information to DairyNZ/DCANZ in accordance with the timeframes indicated to demonstrate compliance with the commitments made in this Accord. Dairy companies and DairyNZ will work together to ensure data is collected in a manner that allows for valid aggregation/collation and reporting at appropriate regional and/or catchment scales (noting the need to maintain individual dairy farm confidentiality).

DairyNZ/DCANZ will collate that information and report to DELG annually on progress against Accord commitments providing the information according to the frequency indicated in this Accord.

Audit

The report referred to above will be prepared in draft form and audited by an independent third party commissioned by DELG (and funded by DairyNZ/DCANZ) prior to finalisation. The audit will include:

- a review of the validity of the systems and practices used for data collection by dairy companies; and
- a check of the reliability of a sample of farm-level information (through on the ground verification of reported information).

The final report will include third party verification as to the accuracy of the reported data. A separate summary will also be prepared for farmers.

Additional Accountable Partners

If DELG considers that the aims and spirit of the Accord would be enhanced by the addition of further Accountable or Supporting Partners or Friends, it will initiate discussion with those additional parties and encourage them to commit accordingly. An up to date list of all signatories will be kept on the DairyNZ/DCANZ websites (www.dairynz.co.nz and www.dcanz.com).

The **Dairy Environment Leadership Group** (DELG) is collective of interests established to influence dairy industry sustainability priorities and monitor progress on enhancing environmental performance. It includes representatives from farmers, DairyNZ, dairy companies, government agencies, the Federation of Māori Authorities, Federated Farmers (Dairy) and regional councils. DELG has overall governance responsibilities as specified in this Accord.

The **Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand** (DCANZ) is the umbrella body of companies processing milk in New Zealand. It was established to work collectively on public policy issues of importance to dairy companies and engage in advocacy and representation with authorities in New Zealand and overseas. Its membership comprises Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd, Open Country Dairy Ltd, Westland Milk Products Ltd, Synlait Ltd, Tatua Co-Operative Dairy Ltd, Miraka Ltd and Goodman Fielder.

DairyNZ is the industry organisation representing New Zealand's dairy farmers. It is funded by farmers through a levy on milksolids. DairyNZ's purpose is to secure and enhance the profitability, sustainability and competitiveness of New Zealand dairy farming.

Glossary

Agreed protocols and data collection systems

The protocols and systems agreed as part of DairyNZ's audited nitrogen management system developed in accordance with DairyNZ's commitment to nutrient management under this Accord. These may include protocols for measuring nitrogen management performance in areas where Overseer® is not a reliable tool.

Conversion

The development of a new dairy farm on land previously used for another form of pastoral farming, cropping or forestry.

Dairy farm

A property engaged in the farming of dairy cattle for milk production.

- *From 1 June 2012 to 31 May 2017* the "property" shall be limited to the milking platform (that area devoted to feeding cows on a daily basis during the milking season) but excluding any dairy grazing land (whether or not contiguous with the milking platform) that is owned by the same person or entity as the milking platform and/or farmed in association with the milking platform.
- *From 1 June 2017* the "property" shall include, in addition to the milking platform, any land regularly used for dairy grazing* (whether or not contiguous with the milking platform) that is owned or leased by the same person or entity as the milking platform and/or farmed in association with the milking platform.

This definition excludes:

- land used under a third party grazing arrangement between the owner of dairy cattle and another landowner for the purpose of temporary grazing; and
- land that is owned or leased by the same person or entity as the milking platform but which is not regularly used for dairy grazing.

Dispensation

Dispensations for individual dairy farms may be granted by dairy companies in respect of compliance with

stock exclusion and stock crossing obligations. Such dispensations will relate to exceptional situations where permanent fencing and/or bridging/culverting is impractical or cannot be feasibly achieved in the timeframes indicated in the riparian management commitment. Where such dispensations are made, dairy farms will be subject to farm-specific management plans that detail practices to mitigate effects (including use of temporary fencing) and/or timeframes by which full compliance with obligations of this Accord is to be achieved.

Drain

An artificially created channel designed to lower the water table and/or reduce surface flood risk and which has permanently flowing water but does not include any modified (e.g. straightened) natural watercourse.

Exclusion

In the context of stock, "excluded" means effectively barred from access to water and to the banks of a waterway either through a natural barrier (such as a cliff) or a permanent fence, except for any regular stream crossing point.

Land regularly used for dairy grazing

Land used each year for grazing dairy cattle throughout the off-season (i.e. that part of the year when cows are not being milked).

Nutrient management plan

A plan prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice for Nutrient Management (NZ Fertiliser Manufacturers' Research Association 2007) which records and takes into account all sources and nutrients in the farming system and all relevant nutrient management practices and mitigations.

Regional councils

Has the same meaning as given in Section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Regional policy statement and regional plan

Have the same meaning as given in Section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Regular stock crossing point

A point on a waterway or drain where dairy cattle cross to access the milking shed, then return following milking, more than once per month.

Riparian management plan

A plan that records, in narrative and/or map form, what riparian margin is to be planted and with what species in order to promote the water quality and/or any biodiversity or landscape objectives sought by the landowner. Riparian management plans are to be developed consistent with the riparian management guidelines developed by DairyNZ. For the avoidance of doubt, riparian management plans need not propose riparian planting on all riparian areas from which stock are excluded if there would be no significant water quality benefit from such planting.

Significant non-compliance

In the context of effluent management means those incidents of non-compliance with rules or consent conditions that result in, or present a risk of, untreated farm dairy effluent discharging to a waterway.

Significant wetland

An area which has a vegetative cover dominated by indigenous wetland plant species and which is identified as significant in an operative regional policy statement or regional plan.

Waterway

A lake, spring, river or stream (including streams that have been artificially straightened but excluding drains) that permanently contains water and any significant wetland. For the avoidance of doubt, this definition does not include ephemeral watercourses that flow during or immediately following extreme weather events.

DairyNZ

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Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord

A commitment to New Zealand to enhance the overall performance of dairy farming as it affects freshwater.

Who are the Accord's partners?

– *committed to actions and targets in the Accord*

- Industry body DairyNZ
- Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand
- New Zealand dairy companies
 - Fonterra
 - Open Country
 - Miraka
 - Synlait
 - Tatua
- Fertiliser Association of New Zealand
- Ballance Agri-Nutrients
- Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative
- Federated Farmers Dairy Section
- Irrigation New Zealand
- NZ Institute of Primary Industry Management

Who are the Accord's 'friends'?

– *supportive of the purpose of the Accord and committed to contribute to its success*

- Westland Milk Products
- Regional/Unitary Councils
Northland Regional Council; Auckland Council; Waikato Regional Council; Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Hawke's Bay Regional Council; Gisborne District Council; Taranaki Regional Council; Horizons Regional Council; Greater Wellington Regional Council; Environment Canterbury; West Coast Regional Council; Marlborough District Council; Southland Regional Council; Tasman District Council; Otago Regional Council; Environment Southland
- The Federation of Māori Authorities
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry for the Environment

Who oversees the Accord and how is progress monitored?

The Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord has been developed under the oversight of the Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG). DELG includes representatives from farmers, dairy companies, central government, regional councils and the Federation of Māori Authorities.

DairyNZ and the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand report to DELG annually on progress against Accord commitments. The report will be audited by an independent third party.

Key commitments and targets

Stock excluded from waterways

- Rivers, streams, drains and springs over one metre wide and 30cms deep that permanently contain water
- All lakes
- Wetlands (if they are identified by a regional council in its regional plan as being significant)

Target: 90% exclusion by 31 May 2014; 100% exclusion by 31 May 2017; 100% exclusion from significant wetlands by 31 May 2014.

Stock crossings bridged or culverted

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

Target: 100% of regular stock crossing points bridged or culverted by 31 May 2018.

Riparian management plans

All dairy farms with waterways must prepare a riparian management plan that sets out where riparian planting is to occur.

Target: 100% of farms with Accord waterways will have a riparian management plan by 31 May 2020. Planting is to be completed by 2030.

Nutrient management

Farms must supply their dairy company with information that will allow for the modelling of Nitrogen loss and Nitrogen conversion efficiency. Companies will report comparative performance back to farmers to drive continuous improvement in nutrient management.

Target: Data collected and performance benchmarked for 85% of dairy farms by 30 November 2014; 100% of dairy farms by 30 November 2015.

Effluent management and compliance

All dairy farm effluent systems must be capable of being compliant with the relevant regional council rules and/or their resource consent 365 days per year.

Target: 100% of farms assessed by 31 May 2014.

Water use managed and monitored

All farms must comply with all regional rules controlling water takes.

Target: 85% of farms must install water meters by 2020.

Compliance standards for conversions

New dairy farms establish and comply with an agreed set of standards before milk collection starts.

Target: Compliance with standards from 2013/14 season; Good practice obligations published by 31 May 2014.

GENERAL

Who has committed to sign this new Accord?

The Accord is primarily a set of commitments by the industry body DairyNZ, the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand and individual dairy companies. They will be accountable for its targets and monitoring progress.

Others are also signing up as supporters and friends and making commitments to help. This includes Westland Milk Products, regional councils, the Federation of Maori Authorities, Federated Farmers of New Zealand (dairy section), government agencies and the fertiliser and irrigation sectors.

How will this lead to a step up in performance across the dairy industry?

Other dairy companies, not just Fonterra suppliers, are now involved and accountable, meaning more dairy farmers across the country are covered by its commitments. The previous Clean Streams Accord (CSA) just covered Fonterra suppliers and ended in 2012.

Some new initiatives are included in the new Accord, for example planting of waterways, environmental standards for converting a farm to dairy and improving water and nutrient use efficiency.

Dairy companies are already incorporating standards and commitments from the new Accord into supply contracts with farmers e.g. *Supply Fonterra*, Synlait's *Lead with Pride*

How will the results be reported and who checks what's reported is accurate?

The Dairy Environment Leadership Group (DELG) will monitor the implementation of the Accord.

This group has representatives from the farmers, dairy companies as well as regional councils, central government and the Federation of Maori Authorities. There is also a member giving an environmental perspective from a Non Government Organisation (NGO) point of view.

Annual reporting of progress will be carried out by DairyNZ and the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ), collecting information from individual dairy companies.

The annual report to DELG will be subject to independent third-party audit and will be made public to ensure robustness and transparency.

How will dairy companies help farmers meet these industry benchmarks?

Ultimately it is up to each individual company as to how they ensure their suppliers meet these commitments.

Regional councils are the bodies responsible for enforcing legal compliance for any regional rules.

Dairy companies have already signalled that many of the Accord commitments will be conditions of supply specified in supply contracts between companies and farmers (e.g. Supply Fonterra covering 89% of farmers). Support systems are also being put in place by DairyNZ and dairy companies to ensure farmers have the support and advice to meet these commitments.

We will meet our targets through the continued support of dairy farmers, many of whom are already well-advanced in meeting a number of commitments.

How long will it take to meet these commitments?

Some of the on-farm commitments can involve substantial capital expenditure for some farmers. These farmers will need time to budget for substantial capital items, so the timeframes vary depending on the commitment.

Also, for some (particularly new) commitments, companies and DairyNZ need time to communicate effectively with the 12,000 farmers involved and put in place a means for monitoring uptake.

But 90 percent of dairy cattle will be excluded from waterways and wetlands within a year – and 100 percent by mid-2017.

But we'll be aiming to get there quicker if we can.

How does this Accord relate to regional council rules, regulations and policy processes?

Dairy farmers will have to comply with any regional rules that are in place or get developed in the future as part of the implementation of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management. The Accord is just one voluntary action the dairy industry is taking at a national level. It is not the only action.

Farmers may have to go beyond these industry benchmarks at a regional or catchment level if that's what is needed to implement statutory responsibilities and maintain or enhance water quality. These actions will need to be customised at the catchment-level to ensure they address all the factors contributing to any issues. We expect there will be regional differences in these rules and requirements as there are now.

The industry supports community-led regional policy processes that involve everyone, including farmers, in looking at water quality issues, actions and ultimate solutions. If dairy farming is part of the problem, it is important that the industry becomes part of the solutions.

Why is Westland Milk Products a Friend, rather than Accountable Partner along with the other dairy companies?

Westland is working through the details of regional challenges specific to the West Coast, including pre-existing arrangements with its regional council and DairyNZ, before fully committing. Westland has every intention to be a full signatory at some point in the future.

WATER QUALITY

Will the Accord make a difference to water quality?

In some areas compliance with the Accord commitments will make a very significant difference to the quality of water for swimming, fishing and other important values. In other areas customised catchment-level solutions will be needed that go beyond these commitments.

How much of a difference that the Accord will make will depend on what other activities are affecting the water quality as dairying is only one pressure on water quality.

Other land uses and discharges from other activities (including city and town wastewater systems and sediment discharges from hill country erosion) can also have a significant impact on water quality.

The new Accord introduces a more comprehensive monitoring regime for the industry to be able to report on the industry's environmental impact and how this changes over time as a result of the Accord commitments.

This information can then be linked to regional council monitoring of waterways to demonstrate changes in water quality to the public of New Zealand.

What about small streams?

Stock exclusion from streams smaller than one metre in width and 30cm in depth is not required under the Accord. Where stock exclusion from smaller streams provides a cost-effective means of dealing with water quality issues, we will work with farmers and regional council partners on programmes of action to achieve this mammoth task.

DairyNZ, on behalf of farmers, is already involved in 14 catchment projects across the country. This is involving substantial investment from farmers.

Fonterra and the Department of Conservation (DoC) are also sharing joint co-ordination of a \$20 million community investment fund over 10 years.

Together, Fonterra and DoC will jointly administer and allocate funds to protect sensitive water catchments through projects such as planting, pest control and enhancements above and beyond day-to-day on-farm commitments.

These are new projects that will have measurable environmental impact in areas that are nationally or regionally significant.

KEY DEFINITIONS

What is a waterway?

Under this Accord a waterway is a lake, spring, river or stream (including streams that have been artificially straightened) that permanently contains water, and any wetland that has been identified as significant by the relevant regional council.

What land is covered by this Accord?

Initially the commitments in the Accord relate to the milking platform (i.e. land used for grazing dairy cows during the milking season). That was the same as applied under the CSA. However, in June 2017 this will be extended so that it also includes land used for grazing dairy cows off the milking platform where that land is owned or leased by the same person/entity as the milking platform.

STOCK EXCLUSION

Does this Accord commit to keeping stock out of waterways?

Dairy companies commit to excluding stock from 90 percent of the length of permanent waterways on dairy farms that are deeper than 30cm and wider than one metre by June 2014 and 100 percent by June 2017.

RIPARIAN PLANTING

What about riparian planting?

Fifty percent of all dairy farms will need to have a riparian planting plan by June 2016. These farms will need to have completed half their planting by 2020 and all of it by 2030. All farms with waterways must have a riparian planting plan by 2020.

STOCK CROSSINGS

Does this Accord address stock crossing points?

Dairy companies commit to ensuring 100 percent of waterways subject to more than once “there and back” crossings each month are bridged or culverted by June 2018.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

How will this Accord promote improvement in nutrient management?

Dairy companies commit to collecting nitrogen input and output information from their supplier farms and providing information back to farmers on their individual nitrogen loss and nitrogen conversion efficiency performance relative to other suppliers. This is designed to encourage performance improvement. Information will be collected from 85 percent of farms by June 2014 and 100 percent by June 2015.

What specific targets are there?

In catchments that a regional plan has identified as unable to take more nitrogen (i.e. as “fully allocated”) dairy companies commit to working with suppliers to reduce the average per hectare nitrogen loss.

How else does this Accord deal with nutrient loss to waterways?

The stock exclusion, effluent management and stock crossing commitments made under this Accord will all contribute to reducing nutrient loss to waterways.

EFFLUENT MANAGEMENT

Can the public expect 100 percent compliance with effluent rules?

Effluent management is controlled by regional council rules and consents. The public should expect all regional council rules and consents to be adhered to. It is the regional councils’ job to enforce rules and report compliance rates. However, reporting under the Accord will include information on incidences of significant non compliance (being situations where effluent has, or has been at risk of, discharging to waterways).

What are dairy companies’ obligations around effluent management?

Dairy companies commit to helping farmers to have systems in place to allow compliance with effluent rules and consents 365 days of the year. They will do this by

providing a risk assessment check on every one of their supplier farms at least every three years. Farms identified as being at risk of significant non-compliance will be subject to annual checks and a management plan put in place to remedy the non-compliance risk.

What else is the industry doing to improve effluent management?

DairyNZ is committing to a broad programme aimed at developing and implementing training and accreditation systems for those designing and operating effluent management systems. This is designed to lift the level of professionalism and performance in effluent management and ensure farmers have access to proven options and high quality advice.

WATER MANAGEMENT

What about water use by dairy farmers?

Dairy companies commit to (a) introducing programmes to ensure farmers are aware of and comply with regulation controlling water takes and (b) requiring 85 percent of supplier farms to install water meters by 2020.

Who’s driving efficiency in irrigation?

Irrigation New Zealand has committed to a broad programme aimed at developing and implementing training and accreditation systems for those designing, installing and operating irrigations systems.

CONVERSIONS

Are there specific obligations on new dairy farms?

Before milk collection commences new dairy farms must comply with stock exclusion and stock crossings obligations; they must have an effluent management system capable of 365 days compliance and have a nutrient management plan in place. They must also have applied for all necessary consents from the regional council.

What about riparian planting on new dairy farms?

From June 2015, all new dairy conversions must have a riparian planting plan in place before milk collection commences.

ISSUE: Northland Effluent Improvement Project - update

ID: A554489

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water & Wastes

Date: 16 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to give an update on the activities of the Northland effluent improvement project group (NEIP). It concludes with the recommendation that the report be received.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low

Background

The Northland Effluent Improvement Project group is made up of representatives from NRC, Fonterra, DairyNZ, Farmers of NZ, Federated Farmers, and other farmer representatives. This main group and a sub-committee (“working group”) meet regularly to work collaboratively to improve management of farm dairy effluent on farms in Northland. The group regularly report to the EMC.

The last meeting of the full NEIP group was on 26 June 2013. This meeting was attended by representatives from NRC (counsellors and staff), Fonterra, DairyNZ and a number of Northland farmers.

At the meeting, the three major stakeholders presented updates on work in the effluent field.

Working Group update

- A generic effluent management plan template was developed by the group. However, ongoing implementation of farm specific plans is being done by NRC only.
- A workshop was held on 8 February 2013 with participants from Fonterra, NRC and Dairy NZ staff. Key issues addressed:
 - Avoiding mixed/confusing messages to farmers.
 - Lack of understanding on requirements of NCCPI (NZ Food Safety Authority).
 - Actions to try and resolve remaining areas of differences.
- A video conference was held between DairyNZ, NRC staff and a Massey scientist, to try to address NRC’s concerns with the pond size calculator. No resolution was reached, although the Massey scientist did concede that the way that the industry calculator was being used resulted in higher risk of non-compliance when compared with NRC’s model.
- An inter-agency workshop was held on 7 June 2013 to discuss requirements under the Milk Supply Food Safety Code of Practice which may impact on effluent disposal.

Summary of NRC update

- Re-capped last season's compliance statistics (which had previously been presented to the group);
- Progress on Effluent Management Plans. Five plans have now been completed. Examples were circulated to the group. Producing the plans is quite labour intensive – taking about 4 full days of staff time, and typically two farm visits per plan. However, it should be recognised that the process of producing the plans with the farmers is as valuable as the plan itself. Working through the effluent system with the farmers and their staff is extremely beneficial. Priority is being given to those farms which will benefit the most from having an effluent management plan. This includes larger farms and those farms which have been non-compliant due to management reasons.
- Preparing for the new season, which will commence in mid-August.

Summary of DairyNZ update

- DairyNZ recapped on their various work programmes including:
 - Sustainable Dairying: Water Accord
 - Dairy NZ environment programme
 - Farming with nutrient limits programme
 - FDE Code of Practice
 - Training courses and accreditation (companies from Northland going through the process).
 - Warrant of Fitness (WOF) programme for on-farm assessment of effluent systems. A workshop with regional councils, DairyNZ and AgResearch will be held on 26 July in Hamilton. NRC staff will attend this workshop.
 - Sustainable Milk Plan. This includes components for farm dairy effluent management, nutrient management, water use, land management and riparian management. These plans are currently being implemented jointly with NRC on dairy farms in the Mangere catchment.

Summary of Fonterra update

- Fonterra gave a brief update on their work in the following areas:
 - Fencing programme – no numbers currently available for Northland farms.
 - Nitrogen programme – this is a national initiative working towards reducing nitrogen losses.
- Fonterra are trying to work with farmers – be proactive and not reactive.
- Fonterra are trying to help improve business, increase production and decrease environmental effects.

Summary

In summary, the council will be implementing the FDE monitoring programme commencing in August. This includes non-notified visits to all farms, plus one-on-one follow-ups to all significantly non-compliant farms. Once all follow-up visits are completed, staff will focus on producing effluent management plans. A pre-season newsletter will be sent out in early August. Topics included will be last season's improved compliance results, tips on when to/not to irrigate effluent, water use at the dairy, weed control around effluent ponds and an outline of this season's monitoring programme.

ITEM: 7

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Fonterra will continue with their Every Farm Every Year programme. Their contractors, QCONZ, will be visiting every farm, with the visit including a check of the effluent system and fencing of waterways.

DairyNZ will continue work on their various environmental programmes. A key area of work is to get contractors accredited in effluent design. They will be facilitating a contractors training course around pond construction in August.

Legal Compliance and Significance Assessment:

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the council's 2012-2022 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:

-
1. That the report Northland Effluent Improvement Project - update by Tess Dacre, Monitoring Programme Manager – Water & Wastes and dated 16 July 2013 be received.
-

ISSUE: Wetlands update

ID: A535571

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Tony Phipps, Operations Director; Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Specialist and James Griffin, Policy Analyst

Date: 27 June 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with a progress report on addressing issues surrounding wetlands.

Report Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

Introduction

The following is an update on the current NRC wetland management strategy. The strategy comprises the following components:

1. Policy review and development (current pRPS)
2. Improving regional plan wetland provisions
3. Guidance development
4. Top 150 wetlands
5. Implementation through regulation, promotion and advice, and incident response and enforcement.

The actions above comprising the council's wetlands strategy are based on current policy contained in the Regional Water and Soil Plan. While the council has decided not to start the review of the Regional Water and Soil Plan (RWSP) and the wetland policy and regulation until after the Regional Policy Statement (pRPS) hearings decisions are issued later this year, all the work outlined below will contribute to and help inform the policy review process.

1. Proposed Regional Policy Statement (pRPS) – Provisions relating to wetlands

The Proposed Regional Policy Statement (pRPS) hearing opened on 20 May 2013 and closed on 1 July 2013. On the final day staff reported back recommendations that took into account any new evidence raised during the hearing. The hearing commissioners are now deliberating, examining all material presented, which includes submissions, further submissions, hearings evidence and staff recommendations.

The pRPS includes provisions that recognise the range of values provided by wetlands including biodiversity, benefits to water quantity and quality, reducing flood damage and cultural values. These include methods requiring regional and in some cases district plans to implement amendments to:

- Promote and support active management, enhancement and creation of wetlands
- Exclusion of livestock (from wetlands) in intensively grazed areas
- Consideration to low impact urban design techniques such as using constructed and restored wetlands
- Promote and support voluntary efforts to maintain and improve the quality of fresh and coastal waters including landowner and community catchment restoration and enhancement incentives such as fencing, constructing and restoring wetlands
- Promote council staff working with landowners, land managers and industry groups to trap and store sediment and nutrients through use of existing and constructed wetlands
- Protect the significant values of wetlands in recharging aquifers
- Promotion of water storage (including within constructed wetlands) with all new developments, land use changes and municipal supplies
- Avoid adverse effects on significant biodiversity values of wetlands
 - Includes criteria for identifying significance based on:
 - Representativeness;
 - Rarity / distinctiveness;
 - Diversity and pattern; and
 - Ecological context.
- Controls on use and development that affects wetlands
- Recognise and protect, restore or enhance natural system (including wetlands) that contribute to reducing impact of natural hazards

The commissioners will report to the regional council with their recommendations which will be formally presented to councillors for their consideration and adoption at a public council meeting likely to be in September. A council decision to adopt the RPS will be publically notified.

Once the RPS is formally adopted, anyone who has made a submission and/or further submission can appeal any aspect of the document. The appeal must be made to the Environment Court within 30 working days of the notification of adoption. Provisions that are not appealed need to be implemented.

2. Improving regional plan wetland provisions

The EMC wetland working group requested that staff re-assess the options to progress a change to the Regional Water and Soil Plan to amend the definition of significant indigenous wetlands (SIW). There are undoubtedly practical issues with the operative RWSP in the area of SIW and the remedy is clearly a plan change.

Issues with the operative RWSP include:

- the 50m² size threshold.
- sole emphasis on ecological values (as opposed to other benefits of wetlands such as flood mitigation and water quality);
- relatively restrictive rule regime (i.e. non-complying activity status / disincentive 'effect');
- other issues in the definition that are not as simple as the size threshold (i.e. the soil/hydrology conditions).

An amendment to the 50m² size clause in the definition alone would leave these issues unresolved and potentially pre-empt RPS implementation and the RWSP review in early 2014.

Both these processes provide a statutory / policy basis for changes to the RWSP and should underpin any plan change.

The conclusion is that a stand alone change to the RWSP to address the definition of SIW in isolation would duplicate procedural costs, would not address wider issues around wetland management and would have limited support from the RPS or pending RWSP review. However, there is no reason preliminary work to support the amendment to the SIW definition cannot proceed – this could take the form of draft text using the Wildlands report as a basis for revised area thresholds and back ground evidence and cost / benefit evaluation. This material could then inform the review of the RWSP and subsequent plan change.

3. Guidance development

Discussion was held at the first EMC wetland working group meeting on potential alternatives to the RWSP 50m² criteria for significant indigenous wetlands. Because the current 50m² threshold for wetland significance is considered impractical it has been suggested in the Wildlands Report¹ that 1000m² is both more practical and captures the vast majority of significant wetlands. The working group asked staff to consider and report on wetland types and examples in Northland that are significant at a smaller scale than 1000m².

Examples of significant wetlands smaller than 1000m² include any of the following:

1. Habitats for threatened or regionally significant species such as black mudfish, native orchids and rare ferns
2. Ephemeral or seasonal wetlands such as turf communities
3. Small dune lakes and deflation hollows
4. Good quality seeps and flushes
5. Rare or distinct habitats and vegetation types e.g. vegetation on ironstone pans, wetlands on volcanic pavements or unusual swamp forest communities
6. Rare wet geological features such as soda springs
7. Wetlands forming linkages, buffers or sequences with other habitat types
8. Wetlands which are the best or representative examples of a habitat type within a district even though they are small

Table 1 (overleaf) lists specific examples of significant wetlands smaller than 1000m².

¹ Wildlands *Report on Wetland Guidelines for the Northland Region*, November 2012

Table 1: Examples of wetlands including some from the Protected Natural Areas Programme database of 1000m² or less

Significance	District	Site #	Hectares	Site Name
Level 1 – representative example	Manaia	Q07/066	<0.1	Tahunatapu Road Coastal Forest (In NRC database as The Nook Road Wetland)
Level 1 – habitat linkage	Manaia	Q07078	0.050	Kauri Mountain Conservation Area and Surrounds (small swamp on edge of forest)
Level 1 – habitat linkage	Waipu	Q08/220	0.064	Mareretu Forest (2 tiny remnants of raupo swamp on edge of Mareretu Forest)
Level 1 – linkage, representative example	Kaipara	P07130	0.066	Omamari Road Grassland and Wetland (small dune lake)
Level 1 – habitat linkage	Otamatea	Q08095	0.080	Totara Creek Forest Remnant (small swamp)
Level 1 – representative example	Rodney	ROD013	0.094	Mangawhai North Head Remnants (in NRC database as Pearl St pond and wetland)
Level 1 – linkage, representative example	Waipu	Q08/222	0.096	Waipu Gorge Forest Remnants (Small area of swamp forest fenced)
Level 1 – rare geology	Hokianga	O05/154	0.01	Northern part Runaruna Mud Volcano
Level 1 – threatened species	Aupouri	O04/232	<0.03	Tokerau Beach – small wetland with rare fern, <i>Cyclossorus</i>
Rare geology	Kerikeri	-	0.05	Puketona Stream Soda Spring
Rare geology	Kaikohe	-	<0.05	Te Pua Road Soda Spring
Representative vegetation type	Kerikeri	-	0.09	Redcliffs Road Swamp Shrubland (<i>Coprosma rigida</i> stand)
Rare geology	Whangarei	-	0.01	Parakiore Soda Spring Pipiwai Rd

From the table, it can be seen that there are significant indigenous wetlands smaller than 1000m². Among these smaller areas there is a wide variety of types, settings, inherent levels of protection, formal identification, informal and formal protection. Therefore some would be easy to protect and others all but impossible, making the development of a comprehensive protection regime difficult.

A greater understanding is needed of how many significant wetlands occur that are smaller than 1000m². Whether a wetland under 1000m² qualifies should be based on the Wildlands Report², existing wetland scoring that reflects earlier points 1 to 8 from this section and significance criteria emerging from the Proposed Regional Policy Statement process.

It is recommended that council work with land owners to protect small scale top wetlands. The identification and protection of these wetlands on a voluntary basis, may be an alternative to creating a formal protection regime under any plan change. Protection can be implemented (in part) through the Environment Fund, although as stated in Item 9 (Environment Fund Update) on the EMC agenda, the demand for

² Wildlands Report on Wetland Guidelines for the Northland Region, November 2012

Environment Fund assistance far exceeds the quantum of funding available in 2013/14.

4. Top Wetlands

Over the last two years nearly 500 landowners of the top 150 ranked wetlands in the region have been contacted by mail offering advice and assistance.

As a result of the recent Far North mailout there were 17 enquiries and requests for advisory visits, 13 of which may lead to applications to the NRC Environment Fund for support for wetland protection and restoration projects. A follow-up phone call last year resulted in Environment Fund and Queen Elisabeth II National Trust applications for wetland areas which are part of two Top 150 Wetlands in the Whangarei district. Landowners of another three Top Wetlands in Kaipara District mailed out to two years ago have recently contacted the council and are now interested in fencing.

Gumlands

Gumlands (refer to Wildlands report³ sec 6.2.7) are considered by standard NZ ecological classification systems to be a type of wetland with significant biodiversity values. They are also fragile and at present under pressure from kauri log extraction and conversion to agriculture. Because of the patchy nature of the kauri forest that formed the gumlands, most occur in mosaics with other low fertility habitats (i.e. bogs and dry heathlands) and these can be difficult to distinguish between.

Yet the RWSP policy, rules, definitions and criteria do not specifically or clearly include gumlands, nor are they often recognised or considered by non-ecologists as wetlands because they are usually parched dry over summer. District plan rules also fail to assist in the management of gumlands, as these areas fall outside district plan definitions. A desktop/GIS based mapping exercise has been completed to assist identification of gumlands (and low fertility heathland). **Figure 1** (following) indicates these sites in the region.

Managing significant gumlands may require developing a proactive approach, similar to the Top Wetlands project, including contacting land owners, field checks (ground truthing), identifying those that meet significance criteria and liaison with land owners. This work will also help inform how these unique wetlands are to be addressed in any potential regional plan changes.

It is recommended that a separate report on gumlands (and other low fertility heathland) be prepared and presented to the next EMC meeting, so the committee can further consider the gumland issue and proposed approach.

³ Wildlands *Report on Wetland Guidelines for the Northland Region*, November 2012

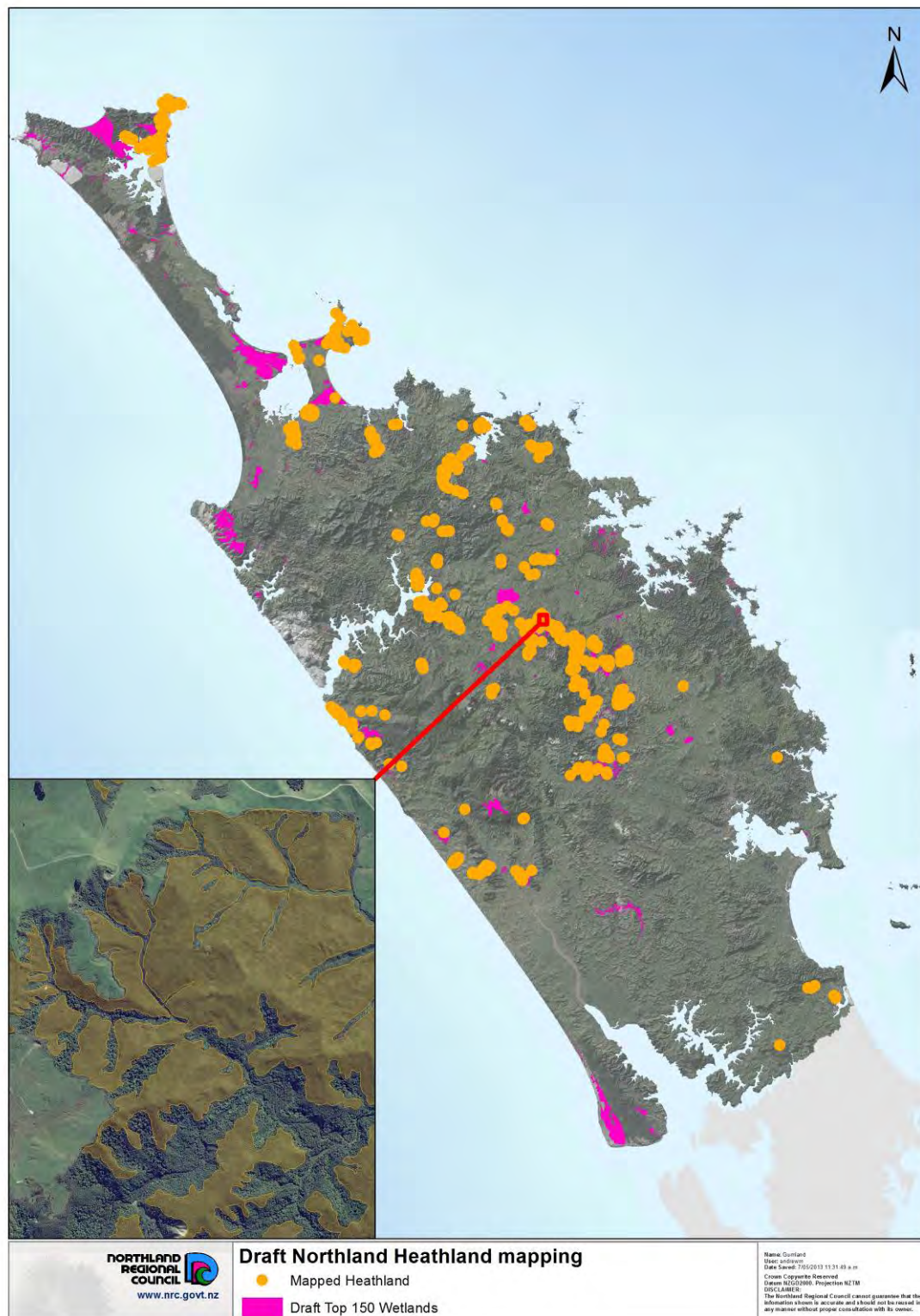


Figure 1 – Gumlands and other extremely low fertility heathland

Where to next:

- Land Management Advisors to make follow up contact with landowners of Top Wetlands in their work areas
- Continue to add information on Top Wetlands to council database about: fencing requirements; management needs and protection status
- Wetlands observed during the course of our work are added to council database
- Continue growing our database of top wetlands and protecting the best wetlands we know about.

5. Implementation through regulation, promotion and advice, and incident response and enforcement

Current RWSP policy and rules are being implemented through promotion of the protection of wetlands, providing advice, consent processing, compliance monitoring, the investigation of reported or observed incidents, and enforcement action.

There are two particular areas or issues that are currently significant implementation challenges; the conflicts between land development and wetland protection in the area north of the Mangamuka Range, in the Aupouri Ecological District, and the management of gumlands as previously discussed.

Aupouri Wetlands

The Aupouri Ecological District has a relatively high proportion of its wetlands left, but is undergoing significant development pressure. This includes farming intensification, kauri log extraction, forest harvesting, subdivision and other land use changes. Council staff are receiving a significant increase in requests for advice, particularly relating to compliance with rules and applications for resource consent. To help with this, both in informing the community and supporting council processes it is proposed to undertake a wetland mapping exercise including digitising wetlands from flood susceptible soils layers, old records and photography and compare changes in area at 1840, 1993 and now. This will present a more accurate and useful picture of the current situation and changes over time.

Farm Water Quality Improvement Plans (FWQIP's)

The purpose of a FWQIP is to identify where water quality improvement actions can occur on any given property, generally farms. Water quality improvement actions are agreed to with the land owner/manager before being listed in the plan in order of water quality benefit. Wetland protection and enhancement is one such action.

Fertile wetland systems (i.e. swamps) can play a major role in improving water quality throughout Northland and are assessed on a case by case basis with all of the other improvement actions when a FWQIP is developed. 'Wet' areas, even if they don't meet the criteria for significant indigenous wetlands, are also promoted as stock exclusion areas and suitable for wetland creation/enhancement where applicable.

It is not a primary purpose of the FWQIP to formally identify and map wetlands. However wetlands are included as above and wetland protection promoted.

Mapping all significant wetlands

The EMC working group confirmed that identification and mapping of wetlands should occur over a period that allows for it to be incorporated into general business, rather than any single whole scale operation based on bespoke GIS techniques. Such

techniques that can require considerable resources and then only reflect a snapshot of a system that is naturally dynamic and subject to change.

Conclusions

- **Revise and develop new policy** for protecting and managing wetlands through the current RPS and then regional plan review process as described.
- **Continue with the development of general guidance** around significant indigenous wetlands, which helps address the issues identified within the current Regional Plan, provides a sound basis for regional plan review process and assists inform the management of wetlands.
- **Carry out investigations** into specific wetland management issues which can be used to improve guidance to council and the public and inform policy decision making, including:
 - Better mapping significant indigenous wetlands in the Aupouri eco district and compare changes 1840 to 1993 to 2013
 - Identification and mapping and improved understanding of gumlands
- **Identify** Top Priority significant indigenous wetlands and actively promote protection by providing information, encouragement and support (including EFunding) to landowners/managers.
- Generally **provide information on and promote** the values, creation and protection of wetlands including through the FWQIP programme.
- **Apply current policy and rules** through consents processes, compliance monitoring, incident response and enforcement.

Legal compliance and significance assessment:

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002, and are considered of low significance in relation to the council's significance policy and decision-making guidelines.

Recommendations:

1. That the report Wetland Update by Tony Phipps, Operations Director; Lisa Forester, Biodiversity Specialist and James Griffin, Policy Analyst and dated 27 June 2013, be received.
 2. That staff continue to progress the wetland management strategy as described in the key five work streams (and summarised in conclusions) being:
 - Policy review and development (current pRPS)
 - Improving regional plan wetland provisions
 - Guidance development
 - Top 150 wetlands
 - Implementation through regulation, promotion and advice, and incident response and enforcement.
 3. That a separate report on gumlands be prepared and presented to the next EMC meeting, so the committee can further consider the gumland issue and proposed approach.
-

ISSUE: Environment Fund Update

ID: 553586

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager

Date: 12 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to update the Environmental Management Committee on Environment Fund projects and funding allocation from 2012/13, update on current Environment Fund demand for 2013/14 and propose changes to the allocation and funding subsidies. It concludes with the recommendation that the report be received and that the Committee recommends to Council to adopt the proposed changes to allocation and funding subsidies, with the changes taking effect for new applications received after 31 August 2013.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low

2012/13 Environment Fund Summary

All Environment Fund projects for the 2012/13 financial year have been processed for payment and provisional end of year results are shown below; includes carryover from 2011/12 and 10% over allocation.

The following table provides a summary of projects by funding stream.

Funding Stream	Number of Projects	Dollar Value
FWQIP priority actions	56	\$369,549
Wetland fencing	7	\$49,075
Coastal	5	\$22,071
Erosion Prone Land Fencing	3	\$16,700
Soil conservation – poplar/willow planting	76	\$30,164
Biosecurity projects	28	\$75,000
CoastCare	12	\$21,708
Total	187	\$584,267

2013/14 Environment Fund Update

Approximately 138 projects will be considered for funding at the end of July for the 2013/14 funding round. The current average for known funding requests is \$4360 or \$601,680 in total (not including biosecurity).

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The total budget is \$485k, comprised as follows.

Item	Dollar Value
Biosecurity	\$75,000
Native Bird Recovery Centre	\$5,000
Pay back to Land Management Reserve from the Council approved over allocation of 2012/13 funding, unless covered by surpluses	\$30,000
Soil conservation planting materials	\$30,000
Planting and fencing materials for CoastCare groups	\$30,000
Other priorities (i.e. Water quality improvement under FWQIP's, Top Wetlands, NPS catchments/lakes and community groups)	\$315,000

As shown in the table, \$315,000 of funding remains for all other 2013/14 priorities (i.e. water quality improvement under FWQIP's, Top Wetlands, NPS catchments/lakes and community groups), against a current demand for funding of \$601,680 based on those projects already submitted for Environment Fund consideration.

Implications of current budget limits

Under the current Environment Fund criteria and with the above budget, approximately 70 (or half) of those projects already submitted for Environment Fund consideration will be able to be funded.

Increased demand for resourcing

Whilst demand for Environment Fund support has increased, and is forecast to continue, funding of the Environment Fund has remained at \$485,000 per annum since 2006/07.

Increasing demand for the Environment Fund is driven by the following factors:

- Council's Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan (FWQIP) programme. There are currently 171 FWQIP's that are being progressed by staff.
- The dairy industries initiative to exclude stock from waterways.
- Council's Waioara Northland Water programme, which implements the NPS Freshwater priority catchments, Outstanding Water Bodies including seven lakes and the establishment of the Whāngārei Harbour Catchment Group, Mangere Catchment Group, Doubtless Bay Group and proposed Kai Iwi Lakes Catchment Group.
- Council's top wetlands programme, promoting protection of priority wetlands
- The Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group (IKHMG) and other community groups involved with water quality and land management initiatives.
- The ongoing development and community appetite for soil conservation and CoastCare programmes.

The increased demand and council's increased involvement in land management work demonstrates the need to assess the current funding and allocation approach.

Proposed revision to allocation approach

Staff have workshopped the current funding and allocation approach with council, including the need to consider increasing the quantum of funding and a revision to the allocation approach.

Changes to allocation are proposed, by revising the funding subsidy rates and funding caps to ensure a wider distribution of available funding and to maximise opportunities for Land Management advisers to interact with land owners and community groups to produce more on-ground outcomes. **Table 1** (attached) details the recommended approach, contrasted with the current approach.

It is proposed that funding be aligned with land management programmes, based on farm properties (water quality and biodiversity focus), top wetlands, NPS Freshwater catchments, soil conservation, biosecurity and CoastCare. A separate 'Biosecurity Fund', operating alongside the Environment Fund, would be created to ensure that qualifying pest control projects outside the Community Pest Control Area programme are assisted.

A reduction in the subsidy for fencing dairy farm waterways reflects the growing expectation that waterway fencing should be a standard practice of the industry. Removing funding assistance for the dairy industry is not recommended at this time, but funding assistance could be phased out over time, and preferably once the industry commences self-regulation of its members. At the present time, the continued support of a proactive industry and early adopters is recommended, and staff will be aiming to identify 'added value' water quality improvement options on dairy farms that go beyond the baseline commitments and targets of the sustainable dairying water accord (refer **attachment 2** for the baseline commitments and targets).

If a dairy farm waterway fence is identified on the list of actions in a FWQIP, this action won't necessarily be considered for funding unless it gives the greatest water quality benefit of all actions identified, and meets the funding criteria (not all actions can be funded).

It is recommended that any changes to funding allocation are phased in to ensure trust and council reputation is maintained and enhanced, as discussions have already taken place with a number of clients. On this basis it is recommended that the proposed changes are applied to new applications received after 31 August 2013.

Funding

Staff have workshopped with council a proposal for increasing the quantum of funding for the Environment Fund, given the increasing demand and council work programmes.

Council has indicated a preference for any proposed increase in funding to be taken through the Annual Plan process. Staff intend to undertake this work as part of the 2014/15 Annual Plan development process.

However, this will leave a 12 month period where demand for assistance will exceed available resourcing, which will restrict the number of projects that can be funded as outlined previously. As in previous years, staff will keep the committee informed of funding allocations as they are made throughout the year, and will report back on projects that receive funding, and good projects considered eligible for funding but unable to be funded due to demand exceeding available resourcing.

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Legal compliance and significance assessment:

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the council's 2012-2022 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.

This decision is considered to be of low significance under council policy, because it is in keeping with the council's overarching programme for Land Management as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

Recommendation:

1. That the report Environment Fund Update July 2013 by Dean Evans, Land Programme Manager and dated 12 July 2013, be received.
 2. That the committee recommends to council to adopt the proposed changes to allocation and funding subsidies, as described in Table 1, with the changes taking effect for new applications received after 31 August 2013.
-

Attachment 1 to Item 9

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Table 1: Recommended changes to allocation and funding subsidies.

Table 11: Recommended changes to allocation and funding subsidies							
	Farm Properties - Water Quality Improvement & Biodiversity ¹	Top Wetlands	NPS Priority Catchments/ Lakes & Community Groups ²	Soil conservation - poplar poles & willows	CoastCare	Biosecurity ³	Total
Recommended Subsidy	Dairy farm waterway fencing 30%; cap range \$1000 to \$5000. Hill country/ drystock 50%; cap range \$2000 to \$7000.	50%	Up to 100%	50% provision of materials (i.e. poles provided at \$4 each)	100% provision of materials	100% provision of materials	
Land owner contribution	Balance of cost of works or labour &/or materials.			Plant material purchased at 50% cost	Labour	Labour	
Current Funding (per annum)	\$410,000					\$75,000	\$485,000
Current Subsidy	50%; cap for waterway fencing \$10,000	50%	N/A	100% provision of materials	100% provision of materials	100% provision of materials	

¹ Focused on supporting water quality and biodiversity initiatives on farm properties, supporting the Farm Water Quality Improvement Plan programme.

² Supporting water quality initiatives within NPS Freshwater Priority Catchments/Lakes and for supporting other community-group based land management initiatives.

³ Funding to ensure that qualifying pest control projects outside the Community Pest Control Area programme are assisted. Recommend that this funding is established under a separate 'Biosecurity Fund' that operates alongside the Environment Fund.

Attachment 2

Sustainable Dairying Water Accord - Key commitments and targets

Stock excluded from waterways

- Rivers, streams, drains and springs over one metre wide and 30cms deep that permanently contain water
- All lakes
- Wetlands (if they are identified by a regional council in its regional plan as being significant)

Target: 90% exclusion by 31 May 2014; 100% exclusion by 31 May 2017; 100% exclusion from significant wetlands by 31 May 2014.

Stock crossings bridged or culverted

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

Target: 100% of regular stock crossing points bridged or culverted by 31 May 2018.

Riparian management plans

All dairy farms with waterways must prepare a riparian management plan that sets out where riparian planting is to occur.

Target: 100% of farms with Accord waterways will have a riparian management plan by 31 May 2020. Planting is to be completed by 2030.

Nutrient management

Farms must supply their dairy company with information that will allow for the modelling of Nitrogen loss and Nitrogen conversion efficiency. Companies will report comparative performance back to farmers to drive continuous improvement in nutrient management.

Target: Data collected and performance benchmarked for 85% of dairy farms by 30 November 2014; 100% of dairy farms by 30 November 2015.

Effluent management and compliance

All dairy farm effluent systems must be capable of being compliant with the relevant regional council rules and/or their resource consent 365 days per year.

Target: 100% of farms assessed by 31 May 2014.

Water use managed and monitored

All farms must comply with all regional rules controlling water takes.

Target: 85% of farms must install water meters by 2020.

Compliance standards for conversions

New dairy farms establish and comply with an agreed set of standards before milk collection starts.

Target: Compliance with standards from 2013/14 season; Good practice obligations published by 31 May 2014.

ISSUE: Environmental Monitoring for the period 25 April – 30 June 2013

ID: A553901

To: Environmental Management Committee Meeting, 30 July 2013

From: Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager

Date: 16 July 2013

Summary The purpose of this report is to provide an update on council's monitoring and compliance work for the period 25 April – 30 June 2013. It concludes with the recommendation that the report be received.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on council's monitoring and compliance work for the period 25 April – 30 June 2013. The attached graphs provide a summary of both resource consent monitoring compliance visits undertaken and investigations into environmental incidents during the period in question. Where an activity is noted as having a significant environmental impact, the details are recorded in the accompanying tables. Further tables include information on maritime incidents investigated and State of the Environment monitoring carried out.

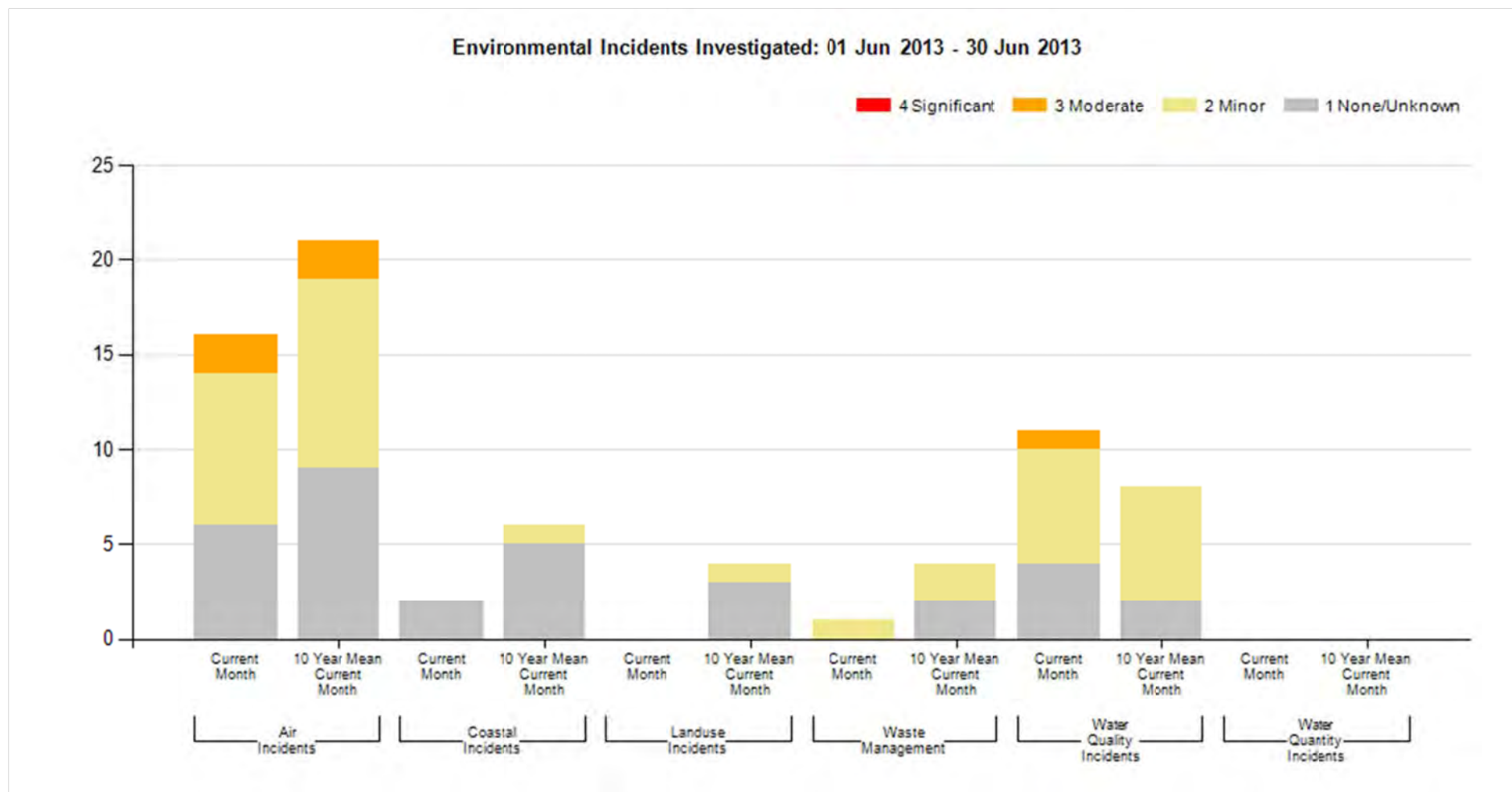
Legal Compliance & Significance Assessment:

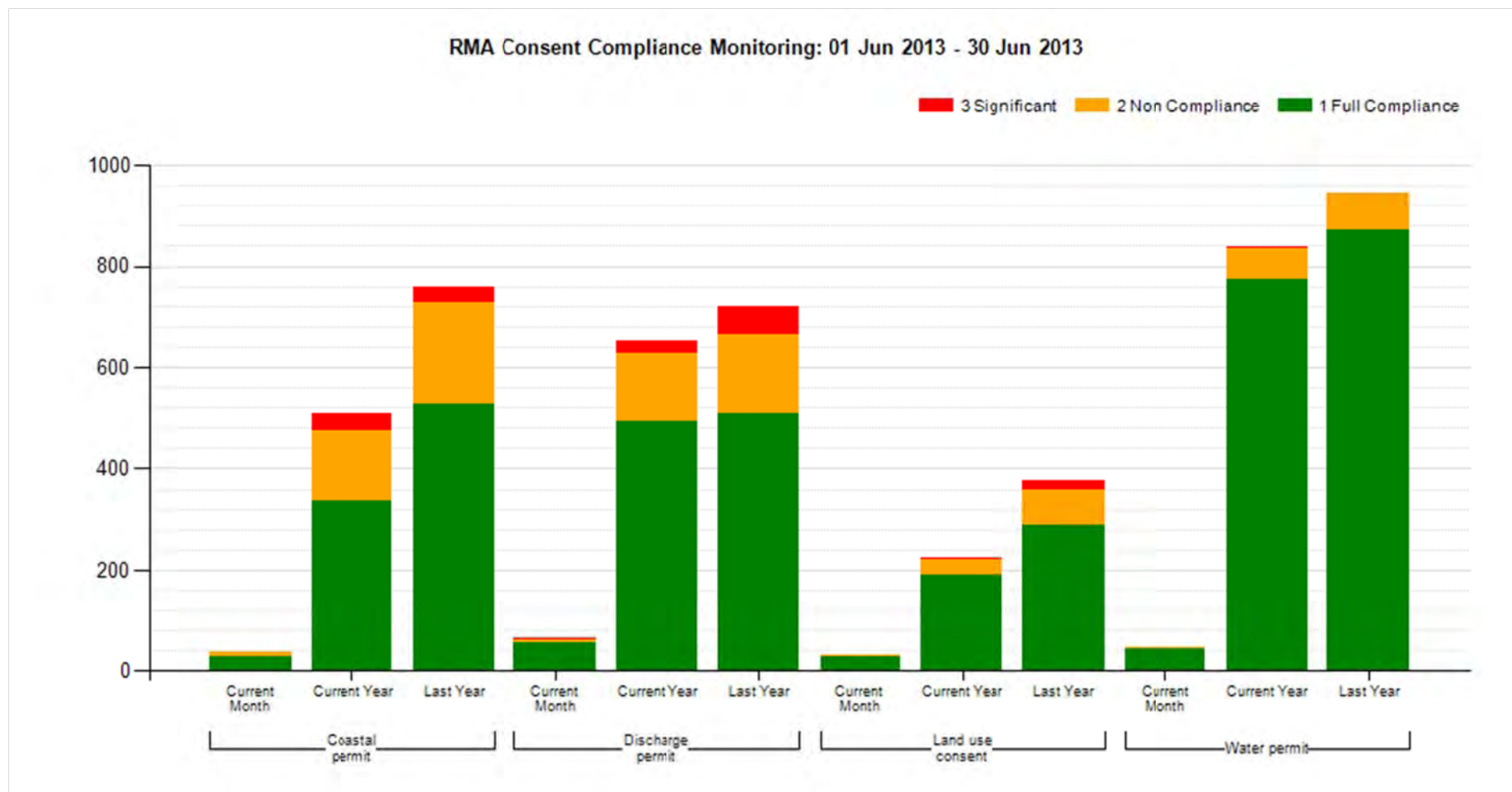
The receiving of this report is provided for in the council's 2012-22 Long Term Plan, meets the council's obligations under section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991, and is in line with the council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

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:

-
1. That the Environmental Monitoring report for the period 25 April – 30 June 2013 from Colin Dall, Consents/Monitoring Senior Programme Manager, be received.
-





Attachment to Item 10

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ABBREVIATIONS KEY

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

COASTAL ACTIVITIES – No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 25 April – 30 June 2013. However, abatement notices were issued to some 40 holders of coastal permits for oyster farms requiring the permit holders to lodge the bond or an acceptable alternative security required by their coastal permit.

FARM DAIRY EFFLUENT DISCHARGES – No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 25 April – 30 June 2013.

DISCHARGES TO AIR – No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 25 April – 30 June 2013.

LAND USE ACTIVITIES – No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 25 April – 30 June 2013.

Date	Consent Reference No.	Name	Description	Notes	Environmental Impact
26/06/2013	REG.009529.01	Hancock Forest Management Ltd	Gammons Forest Gammons Road, Mangakahia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-compliance with consent conditions and potential discharge of sediment to water 	Moderate

WATER TAKES – No significant non-compliant events were recorded during the period 25 April – 30 June 2013.

DISCHARGES TO WATER OR LAND

Date	Consent Reference No.	Name	Description	Notes	Environmental Impact
06/05/2013	REG.007203.01	FNDC	Discharge treated municipal sewage - Whatuwhiwhi Whatuwhiwhi Sewage Treatment System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The median faecal coliform levels from the final discharge were in non-compliance with the RC conditions. 	Minor

SOE MONITORING – AIR, LAKES AND WATER

Classification	Date	Project	Notes
Air Quality	6/06/2013	Whāngārei Airshed - Ambient Air Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous ambient air monitoring results for PM10, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide at Robert Street, Whāngārei, indicated compliance with the National Environmental Standard.
	19/06/2013	Marsden Point Airshed - Ambient Air Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous ambient air monitoring results for PM10 at Marsden Point indicated compliance with the National Environmental Standard.
Biological Monitoring	13/05/2013	Periphyton Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quite high levels of periphyton despite recent high flows.
Coastal - Water	7/06/2013	Kaipara Harbour Water Quality Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality sampling undertaken at nine sites in the Kaipara Harbour. Results pending.
Local Water Quality Monitoring Network (LWQMN)	15/05/2013	Aupouri Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring of lakes Carrot, Heather, Ngatu, Ngakapua North, Ngakapua South, Rotoroa, Rotokawau, Waiparera, Waihopop, Waipara, Morehurehu, Te Kahika and Waihoropita.
	21/05/2013	Pouto Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring of lakes Mokeno, Karaka and Wainui, and Kahuparere, Kanono, Rotokawau, Humuhumu, Swan and Rototuna.
	5/06/2013	Kai Iwi Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring lakes Kai Iwi, Taharoa and Waikare. None of the lakes were stratified.
	18/06/2013	Lake Omāpere Monitoring and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring of Lake Omāpere and its outlet. Water clarity very poor in the lake.
Regional Water Quality Monitoring Network (RWQMN)	12/06/2013	RWQMN - Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring of Waitangi, Waipapa, Kerikeri, Waiharakeke, Waiotu, Ngunguru, Hātea and Whakapara rivers, and the Mangahahuru Stream.
	12/06/2013	RWQMN - Southern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring of the Ruakaka, Hakaru, Manganui, Waipao, Mangere and Otaika rivers, and two sites on the Waiarohia Stream.
	12/06/2013	RWQMN - Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring of Kaihu, Waipoua, Waimamaku, Punakitere, Utakura, Mangakahia and Opouteke rivers.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River levels were high and clarity was well below normal due to recent rainfall.
	12/06/2013	RWQMN - Northern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine monthly water quality monitoring of the Mangamuka, Victoria, Awanui, Kaeo and Oruru rivers.

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

Date	Reference No.	Description	Notes	Environmental Impact
4/06/2013	REQ.570118	Oil spill @ Kerikeri Rd, Kerikeri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collision involving two trucks resulted in approximately 800 litres of diesel and oil being discharged to a roadside drain. Actions taken by council staff and contractors prevented any diesel or oil from entering the stormwater system and the spill was fully cleaned up. 	Moderate
25/06/2013	REQ.570024	Smoke nuisance @ Scott Rd, Tamaterau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit confirmed non-compliance with the rules on burning under the RAQP. A written explanation has been requested from the person responsible and the further action to be taken, if any, will be decided following receipt of that explanation. 	Moderate
28/06/2013	REQ.570435	Smoke nuisance @ Beck Plc, Ruakaka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit confirmed open burning of rubbish at an industrial premise. The fire was extinguished immediately. The site manager was verbally warned not to repeat similar burning in the future and advised of the relevant rules of the RAQP. 	Moderate
1/07/2013	REQ.570008	Sewage odour @ Ridgeway Dr, Kamo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewage spill from blocked manhole. Problem was rectified and the area cleaned up by district council contractors as soon as they became aware of the issue. 	Moderate
1/07/2013	REQ.570235	Sediment discharge @ Waitangi River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred back to FNDC for action as the site owner held a RC with FNDC. 	Moderate
10/07/2013	REQ.570490	Spray Drift @ Matarau Rd, Matarau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor spray drift damage beyond the property boundary was confirmed following investigation. Warning letter sent to the person responsible advising the rules on agrichemical application under the RAQP. 	Moderate

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MARITIME INCIDENTS

Date	Reference No.	Area	Description	Notes
2/06/2013	REQ.570263	Bay of Islands Harbour	Oil spill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of reported oil slick could not be verified and may have been a minor slick that dispersed naturally. No further reports of oil spill reported and incident was closed.
3/06/2013	REQ.570266	Houhora Harbour	Barge being cleaned alongside a jetty and oil allegedly being pumped out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil dispersed naturally with minimal impact. Harbour warden to advise barge owner of consequences of oil pollution and to get machinery fixed to prevent future problems.
3/06/2013	REQ.570268	Houhora Harbour	Outriggers not being retracted by vessels in harbour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harbour warden to advise vessels of obligation under bylaw to retract outriggers and stabilisers so that they did not obstruct other vessels or cause damage.
4/06/2013	REQ.570223	Kaipara Harbour	Navigation buoy reported as missing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New buoy installed.
4/06/2013	REQ.570230	Bay of Islands Harbour	Dinghy on the rocks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dinghy was removed from shore.
4/06/2013	REQ.570234	Kaipara Harbour	Light on yellow buoy extinguished.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New battery installed.
4/06/2013	REQ.570237	Bay of Islands Harbour	Vessel aground on rocks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessel refloated and towed to marina.
4/06/2013	REQ.570241	Whāngārei Harbour	Logs recovered by stevedore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine call from Northport to report that logs lost overboard from ships during loading had been recovered.
7/06/2013	REQ.570261	Bay of Islands Harbour	Moored vessels in close proximity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessel larger than permitted length removed from mooring.
9/06/2013	REQ.570270	Bay of Islands Harbour	Diesel spill reported at Opuia Marina.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spill left to disperse naturally.
10/06/2013	REQ.570282	Whāngārei Harbour	Large cable reel a hazard to navigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cable reel was removed from the water by Maritime staff.
10/06/2013	REQ.570284	Whāngārei Harbour	Small trace of oil Town Basin Marina.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oil traces not found and may have dispersed soon after sighting.
10/06/2013	REQ.570372	Bay of Islands Harbour	Complaint regarding vessel's wake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal warning given to offender.
12/06/2013	REQ.570290	Bay of Islands Harbour	Large tree reported as hazard to navigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further sightings of the tree.
12/06/2013	REQ.570291	Whāngārei Harbour	Log lost overboard while loading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logs recovered by contractor.

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12/06/2013	REQ.570310	Bream Bay Coast	Fishing net across Waipu River mouth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owner was identified and advised to move fishing gear and vessel so that there was no obstruction to safe navigation of other vessels.
16/06/2013	REQ.570331	Taipa/Mangonui Harbour	Vessel broke its mooring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessel recovered by owner.
17/06/2013	REQ.570347	Kerikeri Inlet	Log in tidal waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Log removed and disposed of by Maritime staff.
18/06/2013	REQ.570361	Whāngārei Harbour	Hazardous drums lost overboard from ship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous drums recovered by Refining NZ.
24/06/2013	REQ.570393	Taipa/Mangonui Harbour	Vessel aground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vessel now on alternative mooring. Previous mooring still in need of service.
24/06/2013	REQ.570395	Bay of Islands Harbour	Boat engines being serviced at Opuā boat ramp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat ramp owner is to advise the local operator that this work is not permitted on the boat ramp.
24/06/2013	REQ.570402	Hokianga Harbour	Narrows light extinguished.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New light installed.
24/06/2013	REQ.570413	Houhora Harbour	Oil slick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slick was left to disperse naturally. A source could not be identified.
28/06/2013	REQ.570442	Ngunguru Harbour	Wellingtons Bay starboard buoy adrift.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buoy and light temporarily secured. Further follow up required to reposition the buoy.
28/06/2013	REQ.570459	Houhora Harbour	Vessels collided on moorings during storm event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires further investigation.

ISSUE: River Management Update

ID: A553657

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager

Date: 11 July 2013

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

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual/Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

RIVER MANAGEMENT WORKS

Awanui

Staff are preparing next year's proposed maintenance programme and will present this to the next meeting of the Awanui River Liaison Committee in late August.

Staff have completed a condition assessment of the stopbanks and channels through urban Kaitaia (**Figure 1**). The purpose of the assessment was to confirm the condition of the scheme assets, determine work priorities and refine works expenditure forecasts. This work, along with a geotechnical assessment, is feeding into the preliminary upgrade design currently under way.

Mr Tony Brljevic has resigned as Northern Representative (catchment area and flats between Sandhills Road-Quarry Road and Rangaunu Harbour) on the Awanui River Liaison Committee, advising that his resignation was with regret but necessary as he is relocating from Kaitaia. Staff wish to acknowledge the great contribution made by Mr Brljevic whilst serving on the committee during the past four years.

Public notices have since been advertised, seeking nominations for a replacement Northern Representative. Only one nomination was received, being Mr Ken Subritzky who is an Awanui resident. Staff recommend that Mr Subritzky be appointed to the Northern Representative position on the Awanui River Liaison Committee.

Staff have received a request from landowners, via the Kaitaia Drainage Committee, for NRC to take over the management of the Paparore stop banks and floodgates that adjoin the Awanui River Management Scheme. It is understood that these assets are currently owned and managed by FNDC. The Awanui River Management Liaison Committee resolved '*That the landowner request for inclusion in the Scheme is received and that staff prepare a report on the Paparore Banks*'. Staff are currently collating information on the assets, but before progressing more work on this staff intend to write to FNDC seeking its position on a possible transfer of assets. Any transfer of assets would need to be done in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 prescribed process.

Kaeo-Whangaroa Rivers

At the Kaeo-Whangaroa River Liaison Committee meeting of 27 June 2013, the committee resolved its unanimous support to proceed with the Stage 1 Kaeo flood scheme works, and to monitor the results of Stage 1 works before determining if to proceed with Stage 2 works in the future. Stage 1 works are scheduled for construction in the 2013-2014 works season and staff have finalised negotiations with the preferred tender.

All land owners have now agreed to settle land use agreements with Northland Regional Council. Memorandum of Agreements are being prepared for signing by the land owners, which will then enable registration of easements over title. Pending confirmation of registration, a proclamation under the Public Works Act 1981 for the taking of the land will not be required. Given the potential for Stage 2 works to be deferred, reassessment of part of the compensation for one land owner will be required, as the initial compensation was determined on the basis of Stage 2 works being constructed within several years of the completion of Stage 1.

The uptake of funding assistance to reduce flood risk to flood vulnerable homes in Kaeo is progressing. Of the 14 eligible properties, funding assistance agreements have been signed with eight property owners. Of these eight, two have completed the works.

Staff have written to the property owners that are not subject to a funding agreement requesting that they undertake steps to have a funding agreement signed and in place with the Northland Regional Council by 30 June 2013. Property owners have been advised that should a funding agreement not be in place by 30 June 2013, then eligibility for funding will be reassessed by council. It was hoped that this approach would motivate home owners to sign up to the funding assistance. Staff intend to reassess the potential amount of funding remaining, and work with funding partners (DIA/FNDC) to determine if the remaining funding should be reallocated to remaining property owners on a higher basis if this would enable the owners to undertake works to reduce risk. Staff intend to report to the August 2013 council meeting on this approach, potentially with recommendations for how the use of the remaining funding may be best allocated to reduce risk as much as possible.

Draft minutes of the 22 June 2013 Kaeo River – Whangaroa Catchment Liaison Committee are attached.

Kerikeri-Waipapa River

The Kerikeri-Waipapa River Liaison Committee resolved its support for staff to progress the design of a high-level spillway on the Kerikeri River to reduce flood risk associated with the Kerikeri River upstream and downstream of the state highway. Staff have commenced further assessment and design work, with an aim for completing the design during September. Staff have continued discussions with the landowners where the spillway is located.

Draft minutes of the 29 May 2013 Kerikeri-Waipapa River Liaison Committee are attached.

Kaihu River

A survey of 15 river channel cross-sections was tendered and has been awarded to a local survey firm. The last survey was undertaken in 2008. The objective of the survey is to monitor for changes in river channel cross-section, from which to assess the effectiveness of the channel maintenance works.

Draft minutes of the 19 June 2013 Kaihu River Liaison Committee meeting are attached.

Whangarei Urban Rivers

The design and consenting of the Kotuku Street detention dam is progressing. The following is noted;

- Resource consent & designation; no hearing required, as staff met with submitters to address issues, with no parties now wishing to be heard. Decisions anticipated during August.
- Application for an archeological authority from the NZ Historic Places Trust has been lodged, however approval is required from one land owner before processing can commence.
- Detailed design is progressing well, with a favorable intermediate detailed design peer review.
- Building consent application will be lodged upon resolving any issues identified in the final detail design peer review; this is likely to be some time in August.
- Land acquisitions are progressing. In the event that negotiations break down, then s23 Public Works Act notices (intention to take land) may need to be served which will prolong the programme of works. Staff will continue to make all endeavours to negotiate in good faith in an attempt to reach a negotiated outcome with land owners.
- Based on the current programme it is not feasible to construct the dam during the summer 2013/14 works season, however, pending progress with securing land use agreements, construction is considered feasible during summer 2014/15. Securing land use agreements is considered the largest risk to meeting the 2014/15 works season.

Table 1 shows the main project elements and estimated completion status.

Table 1. Summary of key project elements and completion status

Project Element	Completion Status
Landowner consultation	95%
Archaeological assessment & iwi liaison	100%
Land acquisitions & negotiations	40%
Preliminary design	100%
Peer review of preliminary design	100%
Detailed design	80%
Peer review of detailed design	50%
Building consent applications	10%
Resource consent and designation applications	90%
Application for an authority to modify or destroy archeological sites	25%
Survey for easements/acquired land and registration with LINZ	5%
Tender removal of dwellings	0%
Award tenders for removal of dwellings	0%
Tender construction documents	0%
Tender construction	0%
Tender evaluation and award contract	0%
Construction	0%

Waitangi River

A hearing for the resource consent to extract gravel from the Haruru Falls area is scheduled for 31 July 2013.

Staff undertook an aerial survey of the Waitangi River from Haruru Falls to Puketona Junction, to assess channel maintenance priorities for the 2013/14 works programme. The majority of the channel is in reasonable condition and free from major constrictions. However, several areas have been identified where works are required and staff intend to call tenders for this work, and may combine this work with one of the other major river works tenders to leverage some economies of scale.

Minor River Works

A summary of the minor river works programme for the 2012/13 year is presented in the following table.

River	Description of Work programmed for current season	Proposed date for physical works
Rotokakahi @ Pawarenga	Gravel/Shingle management with FNDC	COMPLETE
Panguru and Lower Waihou	Gravel management around Bridges	Will not be done this season due to insufficient gravel build up
Whirinaki	Maintenance Assistance for Whirinaki Toiora Project	COMPLETE
Waima	Clear gravel under SH Bridge	COMPLETE
Awapokonui	Remove Arundo Donax	This will not be completed this season, because establishment costs are prohibitive. Staff will look at merging several minor works in one contract to offset establishment costs.
Waihou	Lower Earth Mounds/Berm along Rahiri Road with FNDC	COMPLETE
Waihou/Rangiahua	Rock Armour bend adjacent to SH1 at Clunies Farm	COMPLETE
Waitangi River	Haruru Falls RC application to allow removal of shingle island build up in CMA	Hearing of application will be held sometime prior to September 2013.
Otiria Stream, Turntable Hill	Shingle Extraction at SH-1 Bridge (NZTA to do)	NZTA COMPLETED
Otiria and Morewa	Clearance around Spillway and Waiharakeke Bridge	COMPLETE
Otiria Spillway Proposal	Spillway Modelling Assessment by URS	DRAFT COMPLETE
Waiharakeke (Willowbank)	Remove tree affecting NRC Gauging Station	COMPLETE
Kawakawa	Engineering Design & Resource Consent for Town Stopbanks	Decision made not to progress due to a lack of support from affected stakeholders.
Maungahahuru (Piano Hill)	Remove Tree/Island blocking Flow Upstream SH 1 Bridge	COMPLETE
Ngunguru River	Assist WDC with Pine Tree Removal	COMPLETE
Whangarei Heads Road	Remove Flame Tree (Waikaraka) with WDC	COMPLETE
Otaika Stream	Willow Spraying/Removal	COMPLETE
Mangapai	Tree Removal	COMPLETE
Ruakaka - Flyers Rd	Willow Removal	COMPLETE

Ahuroa River (Waipu)	Removal of Willows	COMPLETE
Tauroa River	Tree Removal	COMPLETE
Paparoa	Removal of Fallen Tree with KDC	COMPLETE
Te Hihi Stream (Barge Park)	Tree removal	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.

This decision is considered to be of low significance under council policy, because it is in keeping with the council's overarching programme for River management as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

Recommendations:

1. That the report River Management Update by Joseph Camuso, Rivers Programme Manager and dated 11 July 2013, be received.
 2. That Mr Ken Subritzky is appointed to the Northern Representative position on the Awanui River Liaison Committee.
 3. That staff write to FNDC seeking its position on the potential transfer of the Pararore stop bank and floodgate assets to the NRC, so that these may be managed as part of the Awanui River Management Scheme.
 4. That the draft minutes of the Kerikeri-Waipapa and Waitangi River Liaison Committee meetings of 29 May 2013, the Kaihu River Liaison Committee meeting of 19 June 2013 and the Kaeo-Whangaroa River Liaison Committee meeting of 22 June 2013 be received.
-

Attachments:

Figure 1 – Awanui River Scheme conditional survey

Draft Minutes:

- Kerikeri-Waipapa Liaison Committee meeting of 29 May 2013
- Waitangi River Liaison Committee meeting of 29 May 2013
- Kaihu River Liaison Committee meeting of 19 June 2013
- Kaeo-Whangaroa River Liaison Committee meeting of 22 June 2013

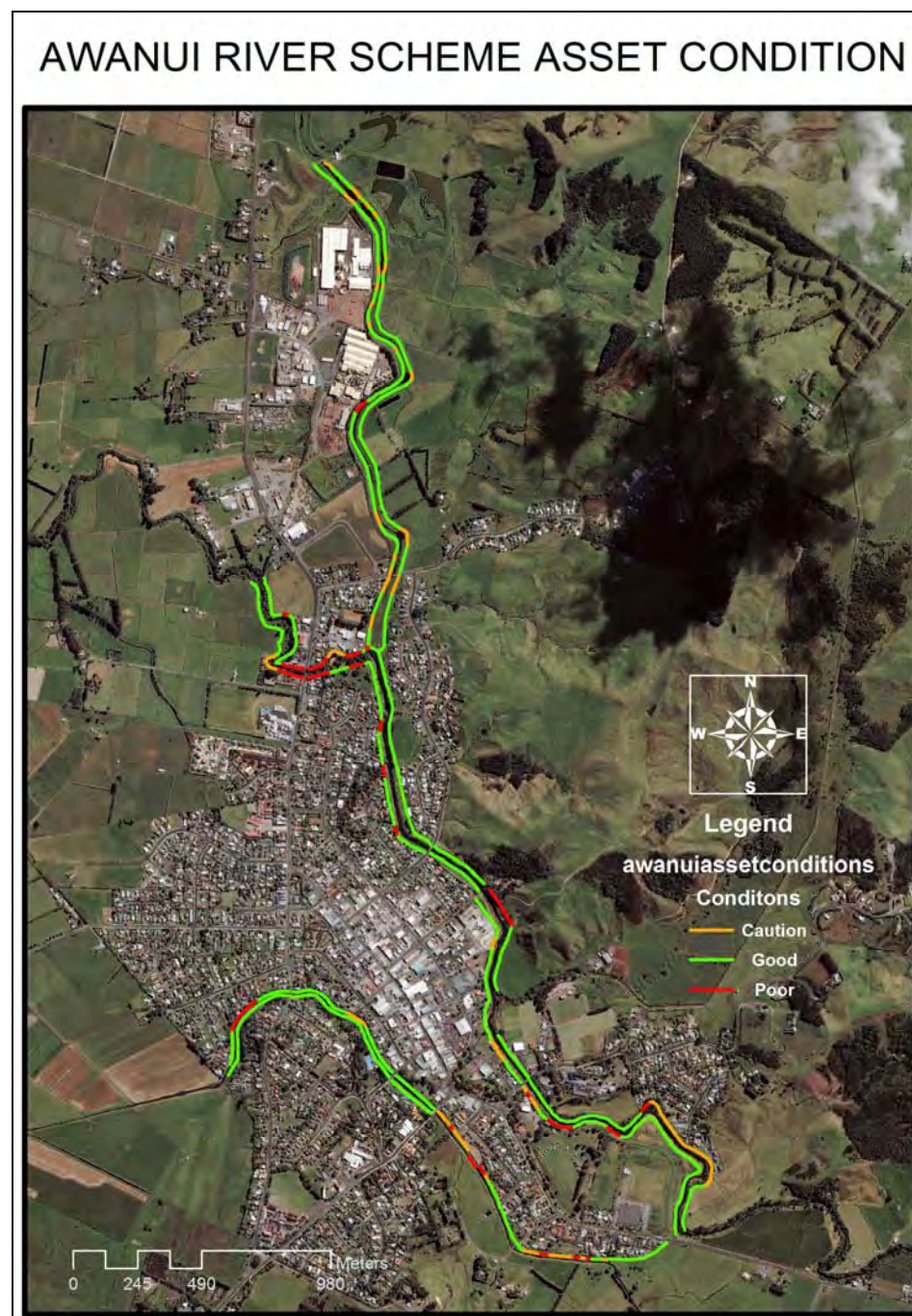


Figure 1. Summary results of Awanui River Scheme conditional survey.

Report of the meeting of the Kerikeri-Waipapa River Liaison Committee, held on
Wednesday 29 May 2013
Woodlands Motel and Conference Venue, 126 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri
commencing at 10.05 a.m.

Present – Committee Members:

Joe Carr	(Chairperson)
David Stewart-Jones	Middle Kerikeri catchment area
Hamish Sheard	Upper Kerikeri catchment area
Fred Terry	Lower Puketotara and Kerikeri catchment
John Dawn	Bay Care representative
David Greig	NZTA
Steve McNally	FNDC
Ruth Marsh	Living Waters representative

Also in Attendance:

NRC staff:	Malcolm Nicholson (CEO), Bruce Howse, Joseph Camuso, Doug Foster, Toby Kay, Nola Sooner
FNDC staff:	Jeannette Ibrahim, Greg Wilson
Georgina Neumann	Opus representing NZTA
John Kooge	NZTA
Murray Wright	Member of the public
Peter Thorpe	Member of the public
Bill Hunter	Kerikeri Irrigation Company

APOLOGIES Peter Kennedy, Natalie McCondach

Resolved: That the apologies from Peter Kennedy and Natalie McCondach be accepted.

Steve McNally : John Dawn

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the Minutes of 13 July 2013 be accepted.

Steve McNally : Hamish Sheard

MATTERS ARISING

Kerikeri Basin

Historic Places Trust – Bruce advised that at this time the matter has been put on hold. In response to a query, Bruce advised Fred that the initial calculations showed only minor increase in cross sectional area and minor benefit. Fred asked how in-depth the study went. He felt it would be a major contributor to the safety of Kemp House if they looked at it in-depth. Bruce to circulate a Memorandum to clarify his points. **Action: Bruce Howse**

New Roundabout – Waipapa Industrial Site

Discussion was held around the road linking Waipapa Industrial estate with Loop Road and proposed roundabout which will require bridging of Whiriwhiritoa stream. It was noted that once NRC can provide the latest flood modelling, FNDC can then use this to assess the options for bridging and make the appropriate budget provisions in the annual plan. Steve noted FNDC needs to ensure the budgets allow for a bridge

sufficient to span stream and any flood mitigation measures, such as stop banks. Steve confirmed he would pass on the bridging requirement to FNDC roading team. Bruce confirmed he had spoken with NZTA, who had said SH 10/Waipapa roundabout was not an immediate project schedule priority.

It was agreed Bruce would circulate NZTA plans to this Committee. **Action: Bruce Howse**

Bridge on State Highway – Kerikeri River

Bruce to follow up with David Greig, NZTA re final specification of the SH -10 Bridge over the Kerikeri River and to confirm if the Bridge meets NZTA flood design standard.

* David Greig, Georgina Neumann and John Kooge arrived

David confirmed he would provide NZTA's position in writing. **Action: David Greig**

DRAFT KERIKERI DETENTION DAM FEASIBILITY STUDY

Toby summarized the presentation and advised the draft Kerikeri Detention Dam Feasibility Study has been completed by OPUS. Discussion was held on the site plans for Dam sites – K2, K3 and K4. Toby advised K2 and K3 are quite large catchment areas (27 – 30 sq.kms) as opposed to K4 with only a 3.6 square Km catchment area. The most favorable option according to OPUS is K3A.

- K3A Dam Parameters have been assessed at 10m height and 15m height.
- The river bed at this site is 84m and the top of the dam would be at 103m with a crest spillway at 99 OTP. A service spillway comprising a 1500mm culvert would be installed through the dam at 84m OTP (river bed level). Toby advised this assessment was based on a 12 hour storm and it has been recommended that a sensitivity analysis using longer storm events should be undertaken in the next phase of work.
- Toby discussed Dam Storage Curves and typically the most substantial storage is provided in the top several meters of dam height. Total available storage for dam K3A is 7 million m³.
- Detention Potential Dam K3A – The main impact (benefit) is a 5.5 hour delay from the original peak to the outflow over the crest.
- K3A Detention Potential at SH10 – OPUS has not looked at the costs in detail yet. The impact downstream at SH 10 is that the delay in the flow that results from the dam would give us 2 smaller peaks from the one event. The status quo is a single peak.
- Toby advised one of the aspects that OPUS looked at is if the site has potential for multi-use and OPUS approached Kerikeri Irrigation during their study.
- Preliminary Geotechnical Assessment – Toby summarized K2A, K2B, K3A, K3B and K4. It was noted there is reasonable access to all five sites.

Joe Carr asked what discussion has been held with the landowners. Toby advised OPUS contacted the landowners prior to the initial feasibility study but at this stage the aim is to simply ascertain if there is any potential and the study is very much at the feasibility stage. Hamish advised his concern is how to obtain funding from the Government to fix a lot of problems at once (e.g. flooding, economic). Steve advised a full financial analysis needs to be undertaken e.g. is there a need for urban supply – town water. Malcolm noted this is about getting an initial response from this Committee and that it appears this Committee is keen to proceed. Murray Wright advised a cost benefit analysis would need to be undertaken. Bill advised the FNDC

had a contract with his company to take water and there is capacity to take more water if required. Bill advised there are three suppliers in this area – Kerikeri Irrigation, town supply and a private scheme. John advised this committee supports the idea in principle and the next step would be for a multi purpose dam to be investigated.

Bruce asked how far do we take the study – as the cost increases depending how much further to take the study and decide whether we can do it within existing budgets or do a variation to the Annual Plan to find the budget.

Steve felt it is more about strategic planning at this stage. Joe Carr noted we need sufficient information to make an important decision. We do need a lead on the economic benefits of the water supply and get the next level of information that can be drawn from data already received. Bill is happy for NRC to have a copy of a climate change report done for Kerikeri Irrigation, relating to their dams.

Fred asked if OPUS did a comparison to the March 1981 flood peak. Toby advised there is not a lot of survey information on that particular event for flood levels or flows at the dam sites.

Ruth noted long term gains and short term gains – there needs to be a balance between the two.

Toby summarized OPUS draft conclusions.

Discussion was held on the following suggested plan of action:

1. An initial constructability assessment of dam K3A site is made, including the configuration and feasibility of the long spillway crest required.
 2. Further optimization modeling is undertaken, including model refinements, additional long duration storms, calibration against stream gauge records, and consideration of a suitable super-design event.
 3. The permeability of the Miocene and Pliocene lavas should be assessed as fissures can occur in this material and ground treatment may be required to reduce seepage through this material.
 4. Further discussions to take place with Kerikeri Irrigation and FNDC and local farmers to explore the possibility of a dual purpose for the dam.
 5. Include the effect on the flooding of SH 10 and route security.
- 11.12 a.m. Bill Hunter left the meeting.

2012/2013 AND 2013/2014 BUDGET

Bruce summarized the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 Budget. Bruce advised there were some delays with the modeling this year, resulting in no expenditure against the \$132,000 consultants budget which will need to be carried forward to 2013/2014 budget. Staff are looking at a year-end surplus of \$120,000, primarily due to delays with modeling. \$2.13M of capital funding has been allocated for the flood scheme works in 2014/15.

Resolved: That the Budget be received.

Steve McNally : Peter Thorpe

2012/2013 WORKS PROGRAMME UPDATE AND PROPOSED 2013/2014 WORKS PROGRAMME

Doug summarized the works programme.

- Country Corner – the contractor is looking at taking down gum trees along the river banks with the landowner's permission.
- Opposite the Golf Club – 15 trees removed.
- SH 10 Bridge at Country Corner – excavated and opened up one span in the bridge and approaches upstream and downstream of the bridge
- Overland flow path opposite the Culinary Institute

Some minor tree removal still targeted for June depending on weather. Staff have been working with landowners that have established shelter belts near river banks to pro-actively remove problem trees before they end up in the river.

Doug advised there a few more relatively minor works to be completed before the main programme commences. Waipapa River – Doug did not find much timber or buildups of debris in that river. Bruce noted next year there is substantial work around SH10 Bridge to be done. Ruth noted re balancing water/debris – she felt a more holistic approach should be undertaken.

MODEL AND SCHEME INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE

Design Storm Results

Toby summarized progress of the project:

- Flood model calibration – complete May 2012
- Flood model design storms – complete January 2013
- Scheme simulation 1st run – complete May 2013
- Next stages – further scheme simulations (refinement)
 - Detailed scheme design
 - Resource consent process

Toby expanded on the following:

- 10 Year ARI flood map
- 100 Year ARI CC (with climate change) flood map
- Kerikeri design storm rainfall depths, compared to March 1981 storm
- Design storm flood levels at Tyrees Ford, relative to site data analysis and past flood events
- Kerikeri River long section flood levels Mangaparerua to CINZ
- Kerikeri Flood Scheme – Waipapa industrial estate
- Kerikeri Flood Scheme – Kerikeri River Spillway

* 11.54 a.m. Steve McNally left the meeting.

- Flood depth with these scheme options in a 100year ARI CC flood
- Flood level impact with 100yr ARI CC

Fred asked if any consideration has been given to if debris is deposited – will it alter the scheme? Toby explained that a modeling assumption is that surveyed channel and ground levels remain static. Flood models require updating periodically to reflect changes to the channel and flood plain.

Murray raised concern about the proposed Waipapa Industrial estate stop bank, and the impact on downstream residents, including those upstream of the SH10. Murray noted when you look back at the side effects of undertaking this work – it should be talked about with the affected landowners. Murray noted the proposed stop banking of the Waipapa Industrial estate has a modest impact compared to other works which

have major impact. He queried who else would benefit. Toby advised that Waipapa Landing is one of the highest flood risk areas in the catchment, as evidenced in the 1981 flood. The Waipapa catchment would benefit from the proposed scheme due to reduced flood overflow from the Kerikeri River, including through the Waipapa Industrial estate, and further downstream across Waipapa Road.

*12.12 p.m. Malcolm Nicholson left the meeting.

Discussion continued. Toby advised the works team have looked at the SH10 Bridge cross sections – Bruce noted that work upstream and downstream of the bridge could result in improved efficiencies. Murray would like to see this work supported by the community and this committee.

Bruce recommended to proceed with further analysis of the spillway option without the stopbanking upstream of SH 10. Also to contact the landowners that will be affected by the scheme and dam options and to bring the outcomes back to this Committee by September 2013.

Resolved: That NRC staff focus on undertaking further analysis on C1 spillway option – effects on upstream and down stream properties, reviewing the cost estimates and bringing it forward to the Kerikeri-Waipapa River Liaison Committee as the first stage of the scheme by late September 2013.

David Stewart-Jones : Murray Wright

Further discussion held on Dams – staff agreed to undertake some initial enquiries with land owners and further enquiries with Kerikeri Irrigation Company and FNDC –
Action: Doug Foster

Options for Rating

Bruce advised the targeted rate is \$48.90 (including GST) for the first two years (2012/13 and 2013/14) of the Long Term Plan, then increasing to \$74.10 (including GST) thereafter for 25 years to fund the capital works and ongoing operational works.

Hamish felt a uniform rate would be better to proceed with as it keeps the rating structure simple. This was the consensus view of the committee, to keep the rating structure as per the current uniform annual charge basis.

GENERAL BUSINESS

FNDC is about to launch a plan change to be followed by a review of zoning and subdivision.

Meeting closed at 12:48 p.m.

NRC Contacts

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

River Management Team: Joe Camuso, River Management Engineer
Whangarei Office 09 4701200 / 027 438 4639

Report of the meeting of the Waitangi River Liaison Committee, held on
Wednesday 29 May 2013
Woodlands Motel and Conference Venue commencing at 1.35 pm

Present :

Committee Members

Joe Carr	Chair – Northland Regional Council
Albie Apiata	Iwi representative
Rhonda Gordon	Ratepayer representative – Waitangi River catchment
Ruth Marsh	Living Waters representative
Alan Burdett	Infrastructure representative - Top Energy
David Greig	NZ Transport Agency (NZTA)

Also in Attendance

Toby Kay	Northland Regional Council
Bruce Howse	Northland Regional Council
Joseph Camuso	Northland Regional Council
Doug Foster	Northland Regional Council
Nola Sooner	Northland Regional Council
Jeannette Ibrahim	Far North District Council
Georgina Neumann	Opus representing NZTA
John Kooge	NZTA
Graeme Wright	NZ Police

Apologies: Chris Richmond, David Jennings and Steve McNally

Moved (Gordon/Marsh)

That the apologies from Chris Richmond, David Jennings and Steve McNally for absence be received.

Carried

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved (Carr/Gordon)

That the Minutes of 13 July 2012 be received.

Carried

MATTERS ARISING

Discussion held at last meeting regarding route security. NRC will forward flood model results to NZTA when calibration and design storms have been completed. Joe Carr noted there are strategic linkages to be considered, especially the junction area at Puketona. David Greig will look into this matter further. **Action: David Greig**

WAITANGI RIVER WORKS UPDATE

Bruce summarized Waitangi – Channel Maintenance priorities for 2013/2014 – 2014/2015 focusing on willow removal at choke points along the river and selected gravel extraction points.

Bruce identified some areas that could benefit from works and noted that this was a desk top exercise, which required ground truthing by staff before finalising the works programme, and encouraged locals to identify areas that staff may have missed.

Top Energy site – gravel accretion and willows in this area could be targeted, Toby noted that flood levels along this reach are somewhat controlled by a water fall downstream of Top Energy. This waterfall has a significant 2.5m drop in low flow grade from 41.5m OTP to 39m OTP. Toby advised the waterfall could have an effect up to the State Highway. Although cutting into the waterfall would be relatively intrusive, it may have the potential to lower flood levels upstream, but with some reduction in storage. NRC staff agreed to inspect the waterfall (as part of the other pre-works inspections) to assess potential for works at the waterfall site. **Action: Joseph Camuso.** Rhonda spoke to Greg Choat who is willing to be contacted if required.

Gravel extraction from both Lily Pond and Haruru Falls were discussed. Joseph advised sieve analysis show the material can be used for trench backfilling but would have limited use for road construction. Staff have also been in touch with local quarry operators who suggested that there needs to be a project that meets the material properties. Joe Carr requested assistance from Albie for any cultural sensitivities e.g. Lily Pond area.

ALARMIST EARLY WARNING

Joseph summarized the Alarmist early warning system. A new software package called 'Hilltop Alarmist' was successfully tested by the NRC Hydrology team. Alarmist will be used in conjunction with the council's Hydrometric Network of telemetry rain and river gauges. This software has the ability to automatically send out alarms via text messages or e-mails to alert people of intense rainfall, high/low water levels. Joseph emphasized this is not a guaranteed service as there are many steps in the process all of which can experience interruptions, power, cell phone, computers etc. and most steps are vulnerable in storm events. It was noted if you receive an alarm, use all information available, including weather forecast, weather radar (Metservice) and the NRC river and rainfall gauges online information.

Below is a sequence of how data is received from NRC river and rain gauges.

Threshold level exceeded at a site:

- The Data is logged on site continuously (every 3 minutes)
- Telemetered hourly to NRC (either via cell phone or radio)
- Data received by NRC computer and written to archive quarter hourly
- The data is read by alarmist
- Warnings issued if threshold exceeded

What is a useful threshold – depends on what the warning is for:

- Needs to provide time for action
- Is not too often (don't cry wolf)
- Shouldn't be over complicated

Please email Nola on nolas@nrc.govt.nz if you wish to be added to the alarmist list.

Joseph showed examples of rule of thumb “travel times” for different rain and river gauges through the Waitangi Catchment. Travel times from the upper catchment to Puketona Junction averaged about 8 hours from the catchment boundaries via both main tributaries. This led to discussion on ways of delaying one peak.

Joe Carr asked if we could include a dam in this large catchment to delay one peak and increase production. It was noted staff have not covered this idea to date. Joseph said Cyclone Wilma was a fairly long duration storm and with fairly steady intensity throughout Northland and along the East coast, it was the perfect storm for the Waitangi Catchment allowing peak flows from both rivers to converge at roughly the same time.

WAITANGI FLOOD MODEL UPDATE

Toby gave a brief update on the Waitangi Flood Model. He noted that the model is approximately 80% complete, and due for completion in July. Toby will produce some long sections for ease of reference for members of this Committee to view at the next meeting. **Action: Toby Kay**

Two events have been run through this model for calibration, the March 2012 event, and the larger March 2007 event. The March 2012 event was used as it allowed information from a number of new NRC gauge sites to be utilised.

Further calibration and verification model runs are in progress, once completed, reviewed and accepted, the next step is to run design storms and produce flood maps expected to be completed in July 2013.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Appreciation

Albie advised this Committee has given him lots of useful information to relay back to interested parties and he is grateful to be part of the Waitangi River Liaison Committee. He appreciated all of the expertise and knowledge provided by this Committee. Joe Carr thanked all attendees for their huge contribution to Northland and noted their local knowledge is invaluable.

The meeting closed at 3.05 p.m.

The next meeting date will be advised in due course.

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Kaihu River Liaison Committee
held on Wednesday, 19 June 2013 at
The Town Hall, Dargaville commencing at 10.00am

Present – Committee Members:

Cr John Bain	Committee Chair
Tom Newlove	Ratepayer representative Area 1 (Floodplain - Confluence of Whatoro and Mangatu Streams to Rotu Bottleneck)
Sharon Murray	Te Roroa Iwi Representative

In Attendance:

Bruce Howse	NRC Senior Programme Manager – Land/Rivers
Joseph Camuso	NRC Rivers Programme Manager
Jonathan Santos	NRC River Management Engineer
Ray Bryant	Ratepayer
John Murray	Ratepayer
John Hughes	Interested member of public

1. APOLOGIES

Des Subritzky	Te Houhanga Marae representative
Ian Lupton	Ratepayer Representative Area 2 (Floodplain – Rotu Bottleneck to Dargaville)
Curtis Harris	NRC Manchurian Ricegrass Officer
Gary Treadgold	NRC Area Manager - Dargaville

MOVED: Apologies be accepted.

Moved: Tom Newlove
Seconder: John Bain (c)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

MOVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held 30 January 2013 are accepted as correct.

Moved: Tom Newlove
Seconder: John Bain (c)

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.a Unauthorised Stopbanks – Issues and Approach:

Update from Mr Howse is that an abatement notice has been served requiring the removal of an unauthorised section of stopbank, with a timeframe of 1 November 2013 to comply.
No further discussion on matter.

3.b Gravel Pit On Doug Stewart Property:

Mr Howse has spoken with Mr Stewart, and he is receptive to ideas for the extraction of metal from his property, provided there are conditions to adhere to.
Ms Murray says there is a petition currently circulating the Kaihu area regarding the Kaihu bridge, and the problems with scouring around the pylons.

ACTION:

NRC staff to visit the property of Mr Doug Stewart, and investigate further options for having a pit placed on site, including costs and resource consent requirements. This visit to take place before the end of July and findings sent to committee.

NRC staff to approach the Kaipara District Council and discuss the bridge structure at Kaihu.

4. BUDGET AND 2012/13 WORKS PROGRAMME UPDATE

Mr Howse spoke on the 2012/13 annual budget, and explained the bulk of the surplus was due to unfinished works that were meant to be carried out by the contractor.

The proposed Ricegrass spraying area may be extended to cover other parts of the river, dependent on budgets and if the work can be done to ensure that the benefits are continuous along the sections of river sprayed.

4a. 2013/14 PROPOSED WORKS PROGRAMME

Mr Camuso spoke on the proposed programme for the coming year. NRC staff to carry out site visits with representatives to the proposed maintenance areas before drafting the tender. This is to rate whether proposed works are required, or whether work is better focussed elsewhere.

Mr Newlove has made himself available to attend, and point out problem areas for debris build up on the river.

Contract work carried out on Curac farm recently left the spoil from the river cleaning to form a type of stopbank. This was not part of the contracted works. The contractor placed cuts into the stopbank following an instruction from NRC staff. NRC staff will also visit this site, and check whether the cuts have been made wide enough.

RESOLUTION:

That approval of the programme be given in principle, and to fund any surplus from the carry over fund.

Moved: Tom Newlove
Seconder: Sharon Murray (c)

5. SUSTAINABLE LONG TERM PLAN

Mr Newlove has raised a number of issues he would like the committee to consider adding to the plan:

1. Flood monitoring – how to achieve this.
2. Flood volumes
3. Engineering opinion
4. Flooding management – guidelines for equity over all farms in the floodplain.

These issues to be discussed further at the next meeting.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

FOLLOW UP FUNDING FOR DAM/IRRIGATION STUDIES:

An application has been made to Northland Inc. to fund the study, but no decision has been made as yet.

INTRODUCTION BY MEMBER OF PUBLIC:

Mr John Hughes introduced himself to the committee. He is a recent resident to the Dargaville community. His interests lie in native trees and horticulture, and is a volunteer with the 'Ourselves Trees for Streams'.

NEXT MEETING: A date in early August 2013.

MEETING CLOSED: 11.30am

Report of the meeting of the Kaeo River – Whangaroa Catchment Liaison Committee,
held on Thursday 27 June 2013
Union Church Hall, Leigh Street, Kaeo commencing at 10.30 a.m.

Present – Committee Members:

Craig Brown	Chair
Joe Carr	(ex officio)
Geoff Stone	(Community representative - Taupo Bay, Pupuke, Totara North, Matangirau, Tauranga Bay, Mahinepua, Te Ngairi 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)
Fiona Robinson	(representing the rural ratepayers of the Kaeo River catchment area upstream of the Waiare Gorge)

Also in Attendance:

Warren Martin	Landowner
Ian Hayes	Landowner
Yvonne Robinson	Landowner
Nick Hayes	Landowner
Jeanette Jackson	Landowner
Donna Cornford	Landowner
David Greig	NZTA
Georgina Neumann	NZTA
NRC staff:	Bruce Howse, Joseph Camuso, Doug Foster, Neville Wilson, Nola Sooner (minutes)

1. APOLOGIES

Resolved: That the apologies from Dianne Maxwell and Bill Hutchinson be accepted.

Bruce Mills : Joe Carr

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 February 2013 be accepted.

Joe Carr : Craig Brown

MATTERS ARISING
Pupuke Bridge

Georgina advised that any works should not compromise the structure of the bridge.

FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE HOMES UPDATE

BruceH advised there are seven signed agreements in place. Two have been completed and paid out on and another two are close to signing. There are another two properties in the Waiare Valley where it is difficult to move the buildings. A suggestion has been made to clear the river instead. The cost of the works is anticipated to be quite high. Craig noted that it was never the intention to fully compensate people for the cost of making their homes safe. BruceH wants to take the matter back to Northland Regional Council to give an update and look at the remaining funding available to decide the fairest way to distribute the funds. Craig noted safety and fairness is paramount to consideration. Joe Carr noted it would be a shame if there were funds left over as there are people willing to do the works but do not have the funds to complete it.

Resolved: That the verbal report on Funding Assistance for Vulnerable Homes Update is received.

Bruce Mills : Craig Brown

BUDGET UPDATE AND STAGE 1 FLODD SCHEME PROGRESS UPDATE

BruceH advised there was an annual budget of \$20,000 for salaries. As the flood scheme wasn't built, less monies were required. He cautioned this budget is a provisional result. River clearance works are expected to be fractionally over \$20,000 allocated.

Consultants costs – included redesign work for Waikare Creek.

There is a live to date surplus of \$86,477.

Other income includes:

Ministry of Education – Year 2013/2014	\$143,000 excluding GST
DIA –held in reserve account	\$243,000 excluding GST

Michael noted the river rates are incorrect. BruceH apologized and noted it is a special rate for Whangaroa Ward. Michael felt if we are taking surpluses forward we should be spending more money on the removal of shingle from the river. Michael noted this rate has been collected from the Whangaroa community and more work should be done in this area. BruceH advised that if the community feels there are additional works that need to be done, it can be done. Michael said what was proposed to be taken out of the shingle from the river was not fully achieved. It is still one of the issues - the buildup in the river by the Kaeo Bridge. BruceH wondered if there is sufficient benefit to achieve a large scale gravel extraction. Michael noted the flax has been removed but the bank that has been left there reduces the capacity of the river. He noted only certain parts of the allocated works from last year have been done. Michael expressed concern that it doesn't throttle the water back up Dip Road and back up to Kaeo. BruceH suggested staff come back to this Committee about the cost of any additional work that this Committee would like to have done. Craig noted as we move forward on the works, we need to understand the impact that doing certain works has X effect and the reason why the works are not completed. If it is additional work that this Committee wants to have done, BruceH needs to justify why the works need to be done. That way this Committee is kept up to date of works completed to date, works not completed for X reason e.g. lack of benefit and additional work this Committee wants and the benefits of doing it. Warren noted the flaxes were taken out of the river and dumped in the paddock. Michael expressed concern that there is \$0 budget for consultants in 2013-2014 year. BruceH advised

Stage 1 is at the stage where any additional work is for Capital works. BruceH advised the design of the scheme is now complete and there is no need to employ external consultants.

KAEO WORKS UPDATE

Doug confirmed he worked to a budget of \$20,000. He provided a summary of the Kaeo 2012-2013 Works Update as follows:

Gravel extraction	SH 10 Bridge
Gravel extraction	Gum Stand
Dip Road	Remove Flax – it was acknowledged that this was not completed satisfactorily i.e. flaxes left in the paddocks and they should have been buried.
Omanu Road Bridge	Machine clean approaches
Omanu Road Box Culvert	Machine clean approaches
Omanu Road Box Culvert	Bank rock armouring d/s
Mahinepua	Gravel extraction
Taupo Bay	Supply Chemical

The 2013-2014 proposed works are as follows:

Omanu Road Bridge	Machine clean upstream and downstream approach
Gum Stand	Remove debris build up/flax
Gravel extraction	Targeted areas to be determined
Other Rivers	Schedule site visit with Liaison Committee representative in August or September

General discussion held on works completed to date and the value of work done. Gravel extraction was raised as an issue and access to the creek was noted.

STAGE 2 FLOOD SCHEME UPDATE AND REVIEW OF OPTIONS

Neville Wilson summarized the Kaeo Flood Deflection Scheme Update. The following was noted:

Stage 1

- River bypass spillway
- School floodwall
- Deflection bank (school to Pa)
- Deflection bank (Pa to Waikare Creek)

It was noted Stage 1 is on track pending Land Agreements/Proclamation. The budget is on track to proceed 2013-2014 with a seven year pay back period.

Stage 2

- Stopbank (Memorial Hall)
- Raise State Highway 10
- Waikare Creek Works

Neville noted more detail was required on the revised budget estimate for Stage 2 and advised the cost was much higher than previous estimates. He confirmed the revised estimate exceeds LTP budget by \$1.3M.

At the moment the account has a \$69,000 carry forward said BruceH. Craig queried if the \$69,000 is accruing interest as we have charged people interest when they were in debit. BruceH to query NRC Finance Dept about interest when the account is in credit. Joe Carr confirmed he will support Craig's stance. **Action: BruceH**

Neville provided a breakdown of Stage 2 revised estimate. He advised the Engineer's estimates have arrived as follows:

- Stopbank (Memorial Hall) \$418,553
- Raise SH 10 \$798,145
 - \$150,000 confirmed NZTA assistance
 - Could apply for further subsidy but it is unlikely to be successful
- Waikare Creek Works \$332,743
 - NRC Estimate – scope is larger than previous budget estimate

Discussion was held to consider alternative options for Stage 2 scheme works.

Michael expressed concern that the raising of the SH was meant to be done by Transit NZ. Joseph advised that only when the detailed design was completed that we can have more accurate costing. Craig noted there was always uncertainty until the detailed design was complete as to what the actual costs will be. Now that we have received the detailed design, staff have put forward Options 1-5 for consideration by this Committee.

Jeanette expressed her concern regarding the benefits to this township. She asked if it was possible to divert Waikare Creek elsewhere.

Discussion was held on if this Committee should:

- Proceed with Stage 1 Works 2013-2014
 - Over half subsidized
 - Good contract rates (Transfield Tender)
 - Deflects high velocity flows away from town and
- Hold Stage 2 and monitor performance of Stage 1 in order to make a more informed decision on Stage 2 options and prevent over capitalizing.

Resolved: That the summary is accepted and approval is given to proceed with the project as outlined in the summary shown to everyone today.

Geoff Stone : Michael Hayes

ALARMIST (EARLY WARNING)

Joseph summarized the Alarmist early warning system. A new software package called 'Hilltop Alarmist' was successfully tested by the NRC Hydrology team. Alarmist will be used in conjunction with the council's Hydrometric Network of telemetry rain and river gauges. This software has the ability to automatically send out alarms via text messages or e-mails to alert people of intense rainfall, high/low water levels. Joseph emphasized this is not a guaranteed service as there are many steps in the process all of which can experience interruptions, power, cell phone, computers etc. and most steps are vulnerable in storm events. It was noted if you receive an alarm, use all information available, including weather forecast, weather radar (Metservice) and the NRC river and rainfall gauges online information.

Attendees to email Nola nolas@nrc.govt.nz with their names and either email addresses or mobile numbers in order to receive text messages if they wish to be included on the distribution. Craig suggested we should identify e.g. schools etc that could be included.

Kaeo River Flood Safety Plan

Copies of the Kaeo River Flood Safety Plan were distributed to attendees.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Whispers Publication

Agreed to do a Whispers Update on the Kaeo River Scheme. **Action: JosephC**

Minor Works in the Catchment for 2013-2014

BruceH to circulate a cost estimate to this Committee for minor works in the Catchment that are cost effective and need to be done. **Action: BruceH**

In response to Fiona's query, BruceH advised NRC does not issue mining permits. Fiona requested information about the new mining permits for the eastern Puketi.

Action: BruceH

NZTA – Geoff advised he has spoken to Doug Foster and requested the new flood gate on the northern side of the Kaeo Bridge is leaking significantly on the high tide – unacceptable to the local community. NZTA representatives acknowledged and confirmed they would look into this further. **Action: NZTA**

Next Meeting

Date to be advised in due course.

Meeting closed at 12.38 pm

NRC Contacts

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

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

ISSUE: Biosecurity responses update

ID: A554177

To: Environmental Management Committee, 30 July 2013

From: Don Mckenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager

Date: 15 July 2103

Summary The purpose of this report is to update the committee on Kauri dieback, Mediterranean fanworm and the kiwifruit vine disease Psa-V.

Report Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision
Purpose:	<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative function	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual\Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low

Report

This item updates the committee on responses to Kauri dieback disease, the marine pest, Mediterranean fanworm and the kiwifruit vine disease Psa-V.

Kauri dieback

There have been no further verified incidents of Kauri dieback confirmed in Northland since the last survey round was undertaken last year, however staff continue to follow up on any reports of dead and dying kauri to understand causes of kauri death. The joint agency team continues to be proactive in spreading publicity about the disease and warning of the risks of transferring the disease via contaminated soil and/or machinery.

A series of talks is planned for 6 August at the Auckland Museum aimed at highlighting Kauri dieback disease and what can be done. The event brings together New Zealand and Australian experts to discuss the importance of kauri, the impact and management of kauri dieback disease and the way forward. Professor Giles Hardy is the keynote speaker and holds the position of Australia's Director of the State Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health. He is also the Director of the Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management. Professor Hardy will provide a summary of lessons learned from dieback management of other species in Australia. The event will appeal to a wide audience particularly to those involved in ecology or biosecurity, and anyone with a passion and desire to help save kauri.¹

In terms of future funding for the programme the joint agency team have commissioned the preparation of a business case to put before the Minister for Primary Industries in September. This will include:

- An assessment of social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts and costs of kauri dieback disease and the impacts on the kauri ecosystems
- Five, 10, and 20–50 year outcomes, objectives and activities
- Identification of potential funding sources including a focus on not-for-profit and commercial sectors in addition to current partners

¹ Further details of the event can be found at

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/newseventsculture/events/Events/pages/aucklandconversations.aspx>

- Identification of the appropriate governance and the management and operational structure to achieve the outcomes.

Mediterranean fanworm response

Biosecurity staff have been working with marine industry stakeholders in Whangarei and Bay of Islands to develop a charter aimed at ensuring that vessels hosted by marinas or arriving for service and repair do not transfer Mediterranean fanworm. A draft document is nearing completion and staff anticipate the charter will be finalised during August. The document sets out a combined aim of the stakeholder group which is to prevent fanworm establishing and spreading throughout Northland and the need for service facilities and marinas to have an approved management plan which sets out how the facility will assess and manage fanworm infected vessels. This usually requires the immediate slipping and cleaning of a fanworm infected hull or the owner paying for commercial divers to remove them. Recent incidents in Ōpua have highlighted to marine stakeholders that any Auckland based vessel that has weak or no antifouling may risk carrying fanworm and needs to be cleaned immediately.

Kiwifruit vine disease Psa-V

Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH) reported in early July that 2246 orchards have been identified with Psa-V which translates to more than 75% of New Zealand's kiwifruit hectares being affected by the disease. Fortunately the incidence of Psa-V is still low in Northland with 1% of vines in the Kerikeri area and zero incidences within the Whangarei growing area. Furthermore no Psa-V symptoms have been observed at the single Psa-V positive orchard in Kerikeri since original detection/removal.

Growers remain heavily committed to management programmes aimed at preventing Psa-v reaching the region and regular spray regimes form part of a suite of tools growers are using to reduce the risk of Psa-V becoming established.

Biosecurity staff provided assistance to growers during the year to remove abandoned kiwifruit orchards and some of these properties will require follow up work during the coming year to control regrowth of the vines. KVH are discussing options for this work with Northland growers who have indicated a preference to engage Northland Regional Council staff to undertake minor works on a cost recovery basis.

Kiwifruit Vine Health staff have offered to give a presentation on the current Psa-V situation. The talk will cover

- National Psa-V Pest Management Plan overview
- Unmanaged and abandoned orchards in more detail
- Continued partnership opportunities

Legal compliance and significance assessment:

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the council's 2012-2022 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. This issue is considered to be of moderate to low significance under council policy, because it is in keeping with the council's overarching programmes for pest management as detailed in the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

Recommendation:

1. That the Biosecurity responses – update report by Don McKenzie, Biosecurity Senior Programme Manager and dated 15 July 2013, be received.
-