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Committee Landcare  
Author Rob Forlong, Divisional Manager, Landcare

## Divisional Manager's report

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

### 2. Managers' reports

The Departmental Managers' reports are attached.

### 3. Welcome back

Christmas has been and gone and the summer (what we've had of it) is more than half over. I hope Councillors had a relaxing Christmas break and are looking forward to 2004.

While some of us have been "holidaying" many of the Landcare staff have been hard at work. The holidays are always a busy time in the parks and ranging staff are flat out at that time of year. Similarly, Flood Protection operational staff are around and about because rivers never "sleep". I'd like to thank those who worked over the break. I know it goes with the territory but we certainly appreciate the effort.

### 4. Half way through the year

We've just completed our six-monthly review for the Chief Executive. The good news is that the work programmes are moving along nicely and while there are always challenges and unexpected problems we expect to materially complete most of our performance indicators this year.

I'm very pleased with our progress because this is not a normal year. 2003/04 represents a significant "ramp up" for our operation. It is the year that the Hutt River capital works begin in earnest and we have launched the ranger service at East Harbour Regional Park. To have things working so well at this stage is a credit to all those involved.

## **5. Preparation for Whitireia**

On 28 January 2004 the Whitireia Park Board met and discussed the plans for the Greater Wellington Regional Council to take control and management of the park from 2005/06. Cr Laidlaw and I will provide you with briefing on their discussions at the Committee meeting.

## **6. South Coast walkway**

Cr Barr in conjunction with Cr Foster of WCC organised a field visit to Terawhiti Station on 21 January 2004. GWRC was well represented at both a staff and councillor level. Unfortunately they picked the worst day of the summer for the trip – the weather was appalling. However, I understand a useful meeting was held and Cr Barr may wish to brief the Committee further on the meeting and the follow-up inspection on 28 January 2004.

## **7. Chrystalls extended stopbank**

Late last year the Chief Executive of Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) wrote to Barry Harris asking if Greater Wellington could look at bringing forward the construction of the Chrystalls Extended stopbank at Otaki. The flood protection team looked at KCDC's request and advised KCDC of the issues and options for them. In essence we would need to increase the priority of the Chrystalls extended stopbank and move it ahead of the South Waitohu stopbank. At this point there is still a lot of consultation and investigation to be done by both councils before we can provide you with a recommendation. However, I expect that the matter will need the Committee's attention in the near future.

## **8. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

- 1. receive the report.*
- 2. note the contents of the report.*

Report prepared by:

**Rob Forlong**  
Divisional Manager, Landcare

**Attachment 1:** Departmental reports