



NOTICE OF MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of the Environmental Management Committee will be held on:-

DATE: **Tuesday, 9 December 2003** **TIME:** **9.30 am**

VENUE: **Civic Centre, 6 Waipareira Avenue, Lincoln, Waitakere City**

to consider the business as set out herein and to take any necessary action connected therewith.

3 December 2003

Owena Schuster
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Telephone (09) 836 8000 extn 8864

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillors	PA	Hulse (Chairperson)
	DA	Yates, JP (Deputy Chairperson)
	DQ	Battersby, JP
	BA	Brady, JP
	JM	Clews, QSO, JP
	RP	Dallow, QPM, JP
	AC	Fenton
	OE	Hoskin, MNZM, JP
	JP	Lawley
	GE	Nash, JP
	VS	Neeson, JP
	GB	Presland
	GW	Russell, JP
	CA	Stone

Mayor, Bob Harvey, QSO, JP (ex officio)

(Quorum 5 members)

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(The reports and recommendations contained in all agendas are reports and recommendations only and are not to be construed, in any way, as Council policy until adopted.)

**AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE,
LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2003,
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.**

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AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE, LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2003, COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.

1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) and (7A) of the Local Government Official Information Act and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the item is a minor matter; and
- (ii) the Chairperson has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting; and
- (iii) the Committee resolves to deal with the item.

No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer the item to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary - Tuesday, 11 November 2003

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Environmental Management Committee held on Tuesday, 11 November 2003 including the Public Excluded minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and now be confirmed.



PART I - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

4 A STREAM STUDIES PRESENTATION BY YEAR 3 STUDENTS FROM KAURILANDS SCHOOL

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Children from Kaurilands School will update the Environmental Management Committee on a recent stream study. This presentation is at the request of the Committee Chairperson.

BACKGROUND

This presentation is the result of an Action Learning project. Action Learning is an investigative approach to learning in which the students are guided through a process in which they research their topic, develop an outcome and present it to an audience. This work is mainly student-directed, although some of the students at this level require input by the teacher. Teacher Jill Larbey attended teacher development days held at EcoWater last year and has been actively working to develop a stream-related environmental education programme.

The Council's Public Affairs Advisor, Environmental Education, supported this formal curriculum programme. It included teaching the class about freshwater native fish and the effects of our behaviours on these fish as well as an 'experts day' when students visited a good and a degraded stream near the school and had presentations about catchment issues. This gave the students the opportunity to question experts, an important part of Action Learning. The class made extensive use of the macroinvertebrates and native freshwater fish sections of the 'Underwater Life' part of the EcoWater education section of Council's website and of the video called 'Focus on Bugs' that was provided to all Waitakere schools in March this year.

This presentation is also an important part of the students' learning, as they are being given the opportunity to show that their learning and their opinions are important.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

EcoWater's community participation and education programmes contribute to strategic goals in the Three Waters platform by allowing people to gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for environmental issues. Through adoption of First Call for Children, the Council has also stated its strong commitment to proactively supporting its children and young people. A key component of the Lifelong Learning strategic platform is to engage children in the learning process as early as possible.

An extension of this has been the involvement of dozens of parents and caregivers in the open evening at the school.

RESOURCES

The Action Learning project was delivered in partnership outside experts and Landcare Research. It is budgeted for and funded through the current Annual Plan.

CONCLUSION

The involvement of the Year 3 (8 year old students) in the Action Learning project at the school has proved a successful model for improving the environmental care, protection and understanding in a local community.

The school's willingness to participate and the commitment of the children and their teacher have contributed to a number of Council's Strategic Goals.

RECOMMENDATION

That the stream studies presentation by Year 3 students from Kaurilands School be received.

Report prepared by: Sue Langton, Public Affairs Advisor, Environmental Education.



5 NATIONAL WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to overview the draft national walking and cycling strategy and to consider a draft submission to the Ministry of Transport.

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Transport released a draft walking and cycling strategy, "Getting There - On Foot, By Cycle" on 8 October 2003 for consultation. Copies of the draft strategy have been made available in the Councillors Lounge.

"Getting There - On Foot, By Cycle" is an output of the New Zealand Transport Strategy which was released in 2002. The vision of the New Zealand Transport Strategy is:

"By 2010 New Zealand will have an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable transport system."

This is the first time a national walking and cycling strategy has been developed. The strategy sets the vision, goals, and priorities to increase walking and cycling in New Zealand.

Submissions close 19 December 2003.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The draft strategy builds on the central government's goal to provide a holistic transport package for New Zealand. The strategy will also help support Council's direction in providing for alternative travel modes, and support Council's own Walking and Cycling Strategy that was adopted earlier this year.

The strategy has the following vision, part of which is from the New Zealand Transport Strategy:

“A New Zealand where people from all sectors of the community choose to walk and cycle for transport and enjoyment - helping ensure a healthier population, more lively and connected communities, and a more affordable, integrated, safe, responsive, and sustainable transport system.”

Sitting below the vision are three goals:

- Communities that are more walk and cycle friendly.
- More people choosing to walk and cycle, more often.
- Improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

The strategy has four key focuses that have a number of priorities set out under each. The key focuses are:

1. Strengthen the foundations for effective action.
2. Make our communities and transport networks more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists.
3. Encourage the choice of walking and cycling.
4. Improve safety and security for those who walk and cycle.

ISSUES

It is suggested that the Environmental Management Committee fully supports the development of the strategy. The strategy takes a holistic approach by taking into account the various aspects of walking and cycling development including areas of promotion, safety, health, and infrastructure improvements among others.

The strategy is set at an appropriate high level and does not go into detail, which sits with regional and/or local strategies.

The draft strategy has been set out as a strategic framework rather than an entire walking and cycling strategy. There are a number of significant areas missing at this stage, which will determine the effectiveness of the strategy. Weaknesses include no set targets or monitoring programme, and no implementation plan. However, these have been identified as key areas to be developed over the next 24 months. It is understood that these will be included into a revised strategy after the strategy has been reviewed in 2006. These are needed to make a strategy effective, and rigorous targets need to be set, for example, double cycling in the next 10 years.

It is noteworthy that the strategy focuses on walking and cycling as transport. It recognises recreational walking and cycling as important but does not go into much detail in these areas. It is suggested that the strategy should be strengthened in these areas. Recreational cycling is also an important step to teach and raise confidence with new cyclists. This should express links to health benefits as well as tourism.

More research and data are required to help planning at national, regional and local levels. Although much of the detail and implementation needs to be developed at the local levels, it is suggested that the national strategy could provide some better guidance and set national policies/guidelines where appropriate. This would help avoid Councils and other bodies conducting separate research to develop the same or similar policies, enabling them to concentrate on more locally orientated issues.

This may not be included in this strategy but identify areas for research and policy development to be included into the revision of the strategy in 2006.

The strategy applies to national agencies such as Transit New Zealand and Transfund New Zealand. The strategy should help build and strengthen how walking and cycling are viewed in large projects such as major rail and roading improvements. Transfund New Zealand has recently released a funding framework that is not strictly based on the existing cost benefit ratio and is better aligned with the outcomes required by the New Zealand Transport Strategy. This suggests that walking and cycling projects will receive more favourable consideration for funding than in the past.

A1-A2

Attached at pages A1 to A2 is a draft submission to the Ministry of Transport. The submission is based on the comments made above. It is suggested that the Environmental Management Committee reviews the submission and adds any comments it wishes to make.

CONCLUSION

It is suggested that the Committee fully supports the development of the strategy. A draft submission is attached for the Committee's consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Environmental Management Committee adds any comments to the draft submission.
3. That the Chair of the Environmental Management Committee be given delegated authority to sign off the submission on the draft national walking and cycling strategy - "Getting There - On Foot, By Cycle".

Report prepared by: Gyles Bendall, Project Manager: Transport Projects.



6 UPDATE ON THE INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AT MASSEY LEISURE CENTRE AND LIBRARY

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Environmental Management Committee on the installation of photovoltaic panels at Massey Leisure Centre and Library.

BACKGROUND

Early in July 2001 Waitakere City Council funded a feasibility study to investigate incorporating a Solar Power System into the Stage 2 development of the Massey Library and Leisure Centre. It was intended that the photovoltaic panels would generate electricity to off-set a defined load, for example lighting in the library, of approximately 8 kilo watts during peak periods.

In conjunction with a professional involved in the solar power industry, Carl Emerson, the Council and associated engineers developed a concept design. Considerations included installing solar product in keeping with the genre of the building, matching the system output to a definable library load, and maximizing visibility of performance by public display and website.

Council approached the United Network Shareholders Society for external funding for the project. It was on the basis that the photovoltaic panels on Massey Library would demonstrate renewable energy generation, which would have an educational focus rather than being commercially viable at this time.

The United Network Shareholders Society very generously granted \$166,000.00 excluding GST funding for the project.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority released the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy in September 2001. The direction of the strategy focuses on improving energy efficiency and a progressive transition to renewable sources of energy. The strategy clearly defines a target to increase renewable energy supply for consumer energy requirements by 2012.

Energy efficiency, renewable energy and reducing the resulting carbon dioxide impacts on climate change are an integral part of Waitakere City's Eco-City philosophy. Sustainable Energy and Clean Air objectives have been incorporated into the Long Term Council Community Plan.

ISSUES

System Description

The contract to design and build the photovoltaic system for Massey Library was awarded to Reid Technology. The system at Massey Library consists of ninety-six BP585 panels from BP Solar, a recognised leader in this technology. These are some of the highest efficiency solar cells manufactured worldwide at this time. The estimated output is 8.16 kilo watts and will peak at around 9 kilo watts in high solar and low temperature conditions.

The output of the system is estimated to be 10,950 kilo watt hours per year, an average of 30 kilo watt hours per day. The system will produce more electricity in summer and less in winter reflecting the weather conditions. Council staff estimate that Massey Library uses 138,000 kilo watt hours per year (42%) with the whole Massey Leisure Centre and Library site using 330,00 kilo watt hours per year. As part of the educational aspect of the project, Council staff are monitoring the electricity generated by the system with electricity used by the library. This is to enable a comparison to be made showing the system is generating enough electricity to power the lighting used by the library or another tangible electrical load.

The system is connected directly to the electricity meter through inverters, enabling the electricity generated be used on-site and for excess electricity to be fed back onto the national grid. Council's electricity supplier, Genesis Energy, have tentatively agreed that Council will be credited for energy fed onto the national grid at the agreed contract price Council is charged at that price period. Final arrangements and contractual issues securing the net metering arrangement are being worked through with Genesis Energy.

Public Display

Reid Technology have installed a skycam viewing the panels and skyline towards the Waitamata Harbour. An electronic display will allow the public, residents, school children and renewable energy enthusiasts and researchers to access information generated by the system via a computer located inside Massey Library and through a link to Council's website. Neal Smith, the artist involved with Massey Leisure Centre and Library Stage 2 project, is working with Council to design the display unit for inside the library.

Launch

Massey Library is the first major civic building in the New Zealand to have a photovoltaic system being installed on it by a council. This project is an important milestone for Council implementing Sustainable Energy and Clean Air platform, showcasing how local government can support the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and implementing carbon dioxide reduction initiatives.

A celebratory launch for the system is being planned for February 2004 to acknowledge the contribution of the Massey Library photovoltaic system towards implementing renewable energy technologies and the education opportunities this system will provide. This event will also enable Council to acknowledge the funding received from the United Network Shareholders Society to implement the project.

Direction is sought from the Committee on ideas for the launch event with the suggestion on the table of inviting the Honourable Pete Hodgson, Minister for Energy to the launch.

RESOURCES

United Network Shareholders Society contribution	\$166,000
Council's contribution 75-9710-46630-280	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Total project funding (excluding GST)	\$199,000

It is anticipated that the project will be completed within this budget.

CONCLUSION

The photovoltaic system at Massey Leisure Centre and Library was installed and commissioned in November 2003. The public display within Massey Library will be installed during December 2003 and the public launch will take place in February 2004.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Environmental Management Committee provide direction for the launch of the photovoltaic system at Massey Library to celebrate the first major civic building in the New Zealand to have a photovoltaic system being installed.
3. That Council extend an invitation to the Honourable Pete Hodgson, Minister of Energy, to attend the launch of the photovoltaic system in February 2004.

Report prepared by: Michelle Dawson, Project Manager: Cleaner Production.



7 **ASSESSMENT OF WASTEWATER SERVICES AND NEW WASTEWATER TECHNOLOGIES**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update the Environmental Management Committee on the use of new wastewater technologies in the context of:

- An assessment of wastewater services for Waitakere City;
- Rodney District Council's proposals for Kumeu, Huapai, Waimauku and Riverhead wastewater services; and
- North Shore City Council's proposals for Long Bay and Greenhithe wastewater services.

BACKGROUND

The report updates information presented to the Environmental Management Committee meeting of 8 July 2003.

The *Local Government Act 2002* Section 125 requires Council to undertake an assessment of water services (ie. water, wastewater and stormwater). Section 128 of the Act requires the Council to consider a holistic approach for the assessment and to consider full range of options and technologies available to meet current and future demands for water services.

One option to meet future demands is to optimise the capacity of existing wastewater reticulation by reducing the volume of infiltration and inflow through leaky and faulty private drains.

The current policy adopted by the Council requires property owners to carry out repairs at their cost in order to minimise the effects of infiltration and inflow. This policy could reduce infiltration and inflow volumes by at least 25% in target catchments, such as New Lynn.

The Rodney District Council is investigating options for wastewater services and these may impact on the future planning for wastewater in Waitakere City, particularly in the provision of wastewater services to the townships of Kumeu, Huapai, Waimauku and Riverhead.

A presentation was provided on the options and relevant technologies at the Environmental Management Committee's meeting of 6 April 2003.

North Shore City Council has been investigating options for wastewater services for Long Bay and Greenhithe and has identified several improvements to the conventional wastewater reticulation system with the view of achieving a closed system and reducing stormwater infiltration into the system.

Waitakere City Council is currently investigating water cycle management options to service the Northern Strategic Growth Area of Hobsonville Peninsula, Hobsonville Corridor and Massey North.

In this context, Waitakere City Council is working with Rodney District Council and North Shore City Council to investigate wastewater technologies that can provide efficient and effective wastewater services.

Although responsibility for the operation of the Council and Watercare Services Limited wastewater networks is separate, the networks operate in an integrated manner and modifications to one can have the potential to affect performance in the other. Hence there are mutual benefits to the Auckland region in undertaking an appropriate level of joint planning and information exchange in relation to their respective network upgrades, population forecasts, current and future flows and other relevant data.

As a result Council and Watercare Services Limited are developing a proposal for joint investigations for wastewater planning.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Council's *Three Waters* platform has the objective of establishing Waitakere as a centre of innovative water management. One of the success measures is that sustainable management solutions for stormwater, water and wastewater are achieved in all new development areas. The consideration of new wastewater technologies is fundamental to this achievement.

Planning for wastewater and stormwater services is included in the Sector Agreement developed with Rodney District Council, North Shore City Council and the Auckland Regional Council. This agreement states that Sector partners will share technical knowledge and work co-operatively on innovative approaches for managing stormwater and wastewater.

Over the planning horizon green field expansion may occur in:

- Waitakere City Council's northern strategic growth area of Whenuapai, Hobsonville Peninsula, Hobsonville Corridor and Massey North, Red Hills and the western areas of Babich and Penihana;
- Rodney District Council's Kumeu and Riverhead townships; and
- North Shore City Council's Greenhithe area.

An integrated approach to development of these areas by all three Council's may have economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits to the Northern and Western Regions as a whole, especially for wastewater treatment, disposal and re-use.

ISSUES

In line with the Council's strategic direction 70% of growth over the next 20 years will be in existing urban areas and it will be necessary to ensure adequate capacity for growth.

Traditional wastewater planning is based on a 20 year planning horizon. However, as the lifecycle of wastewater infrastructure typically exceeds 50 years, short term planning (ie. 1-20 years) may compromise longer-term development and a 50-year planning horizon is now considered more appropriate.

Robust and flexible strategies that result in long-term management solutions meeting community outcomes and conforming to Council's Vision of sustainability as conveyed by its strategic platforms are required. As a consequence Council will promote new wastewater technologies and establish opportunities for implementation of these technologies through developers and Council's own projects.

The *Local Government Act 2002* requires Council to complete an assessment of water services by 30 June 2005 for the whole city. This means that issues relating to small communities such as Whenuapai village and Waitakere Township, currently serviced by individual septic tanks, will need to be addressed.

The assessment will also need to address cross boundary opportunities and issues and incorporate integrated management solutions where appropriate.

Other interrelated issues include:

- Implementation of priorities under the Long Term Council Community Plan;
- The Auckland Regional Council's (ARC) Variation to the *Proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water* and the *Proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal* which sets environmental standards for the performance of wastewater networks; and
- The enhancement of the stormwater infiltration and inflow programme to reduce infiltration and inflow from public and private drains into the wastewater system.

The capacity of Watercare Services Limited's western interceptor is a key issue for Waitakere City. A new initiative is underway between Watercare Services Limited and EcoWater to look at joint planning for future wastewater demand.

Present wastewater systems are designed for 5 x average dry weather flow and a key decision in this planning study is whether there is a more sustainable standard than this current traditional standard. There are many opportunities for reducing peak wet weather flows and these relate to both private and public drains. The New Plymouth District Council has recognized that the repair of private drains can be considered a 'public good' and are funding the repair and replacement of private drains in order to reduce infiltration. Addressing faulty private drains along with the public network is essential in terms of the overall wastewater reduction strategy.

CURRENT STATUS

Assessment of Wastewater Services

The assessment of wastewater services will be undertaken as part of the broader *Assessment of Water Services* as required under the Local Government Act. The current programme is as follows:

- Review existing information and prepare a preliminary assessment and draft discussion document by 31 March 2004;
- Develop an appropriate community consultative process by 31 March 2004;
- Consult with other stakeholders as the need arises;
- Prepare models and develop levels of service cost/benefits and feasibility studies by 30 September 2004; and
- Based on the community consultation outcomes, produce a final assessment by 30 June 2005.

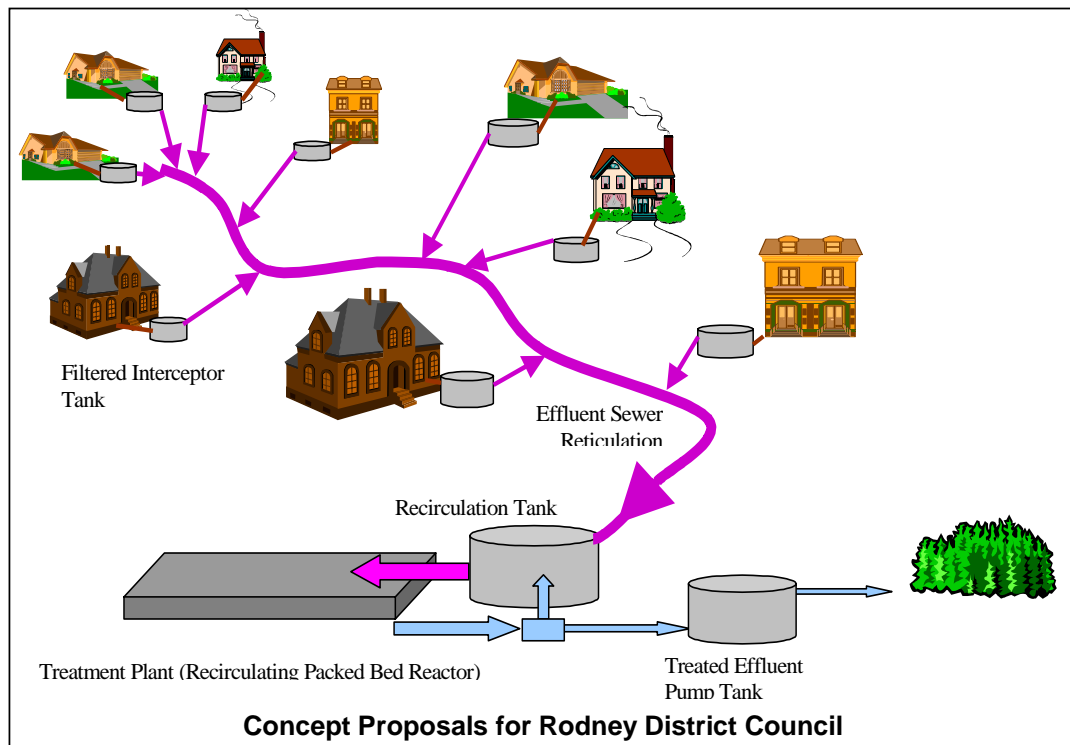
Rodney District Council

Rodney District Council have been considering a number of options using new technologies for the provision of wastewater services to Kumeu, Huapai, Waimauku and Riverhead and more recently to Muriwai. These include:

- The Orenco Systems decentralised sewer system comprising new, water-tight onsite interceptor tanks (septic tanks) with outlet filters or screened pump vaults, small diameter polyethylene pipes, a recirculating textile packed bed reactor treatment plant and subsurface pressure compensating drip irrigation to land; and
- The Coriolis Water Services/EOne grinder pump system comprising a grinder pump wet well, small diameter polyethylene pipes, a recirculating sand filter treatment plant with a large settling tank, and subsurface pressure compensating drip irrigation to land.

Wastewater re-use options are also being considered and include irrigation of golf courses and eucalyptus and/or forestry plantations.

Rodney is also currently developing a servicing concept plan for a model catchment in Huapai (shown conceptually below). Extensive consultation with the community has indicated a high level of support for a sustainable, three-waters approach to servicing the catchment. It is also proposed to connect a portion of the existing properties into the wastewater scheme giving a total of about 250 homes being serviced by the scheme.

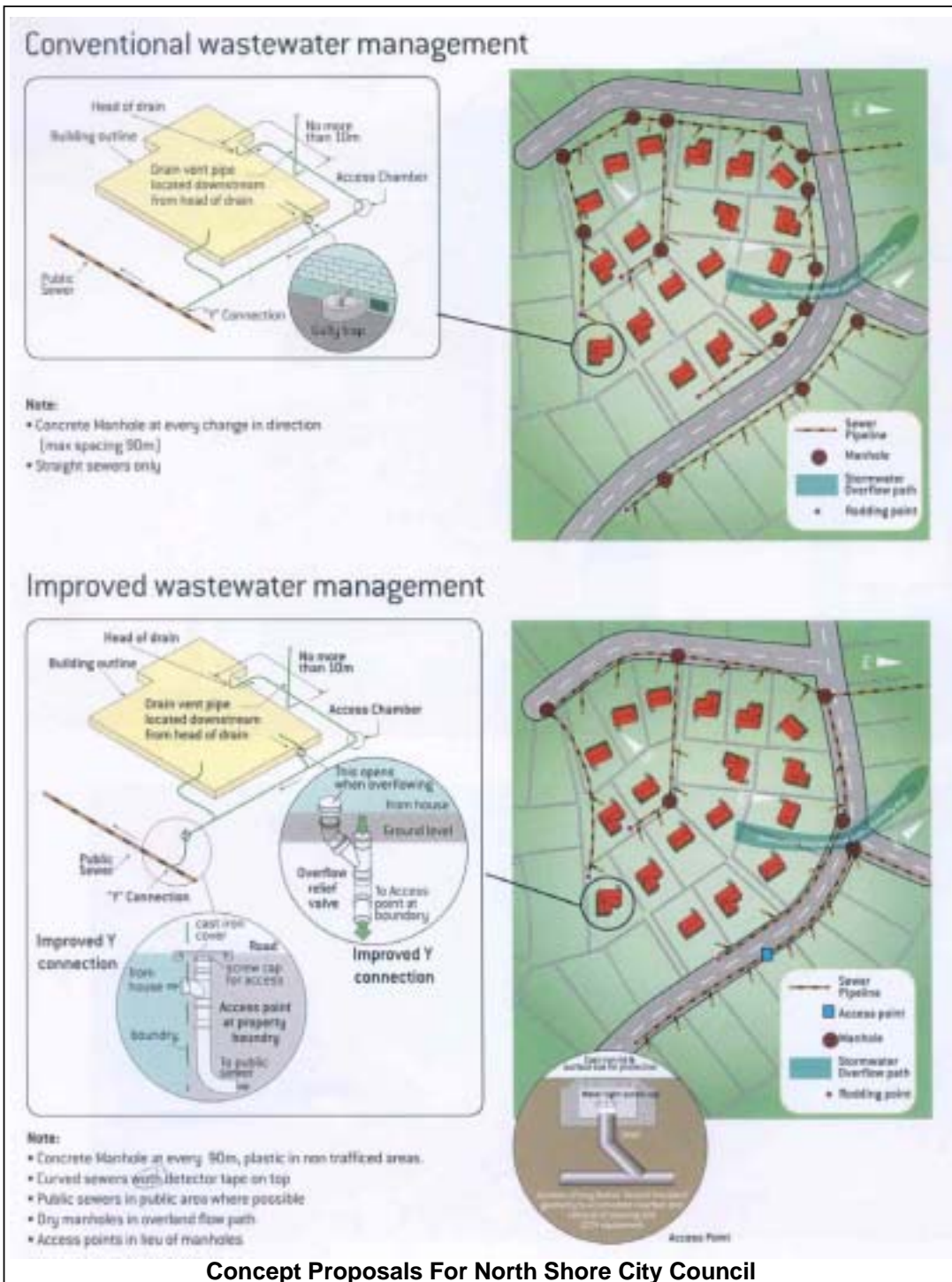


North Shore City Council

A conventional wastewater system has a gully trap and manholes at every change in pipe direction. North Shore City Council have identified that the following improvements could be made to minimise stormwater infiltration:

- No gully trap at the house - an overflow valve is installed instead;
- An access point is installed at the junction of the house pipe to the main pipe to allow inspection and monitoring of the house system. Generally access points are used in lieu of manholes to permit entry for closed circuit television cameras and for cleaning;
- Curved polyethylene sewers with detector tape and fewer manholes;
- More watertight plastic manholes in non-trafficked areas; and
- "Dry manholes" in stormwater overland flow paths.

North Shore City Council is undertaking a field trial in a Greenhithe subdivision before implementing citywide (shown conceptually below).



Northern Strategic Growth Area (Norsga)

The future development of Norsga provides an opportunity for integrated land use and infrastructure planning. Currently investigations are underway to identify sustainable, innovative water cycle management solutions to service the area.

Options are to be evaluated using a quadruple bottom line methodology structured around the Council's nine strategic platforms. In addition to connecting to the existing wastewater reticulation system, innovative options being considered include septic tanks with small-scale decentralised treatment plants (ie. the Rodney approach) and vacuum toilets:

The work is expected to be completed late January 2004 and results will be reported to this Committee on 9 March 2004.

Private Drains

The Council's current policy with regard to the repair of private drains was presented to the Environmental Management Committee meeting of 8 July 2003. All property owners are required to repair private drains contributing to infiltration and inflow and enforcement action if there is no action after 12 months of notification. The boundary between public and private drains is shown diagrammatically below.

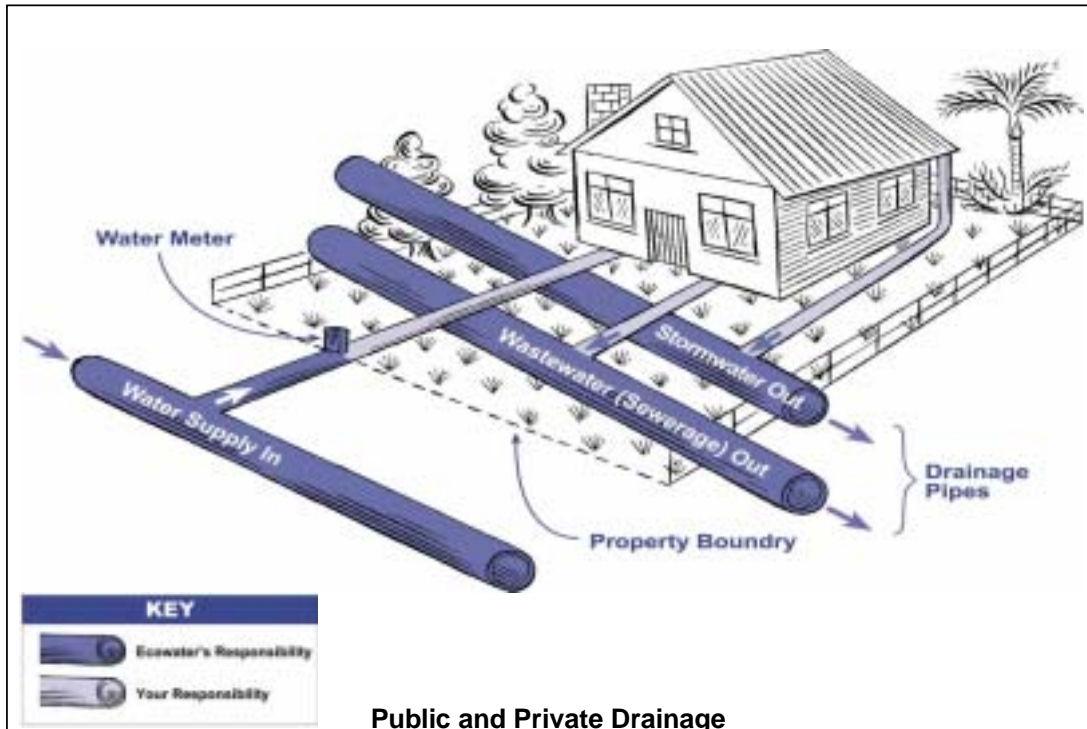
Enhancements implemented include:

- Revision of the private drains process to improve interdependencies between Council groups and database systems (Hansen and GEMS). The enforcement handover process from EcoWater to Field Services is currently being developed;
- Approval of revised LIM text wording and addition to GEMS for the LIM reports;
- Revision of defect notification letters is underway in light of changes to the Local Government Act;
- Entry of faults into Hansen to facilitate monthly and 12 monthly reminder letter mail outs and to improve tracking;
- Drafting of an appropriate leave behind card advising on the day of testing if a defect was found or not found;
- Updating and reprinting of the pamphlet '*Wastewater, You and Your Drains*'; and
- Revision and updating of the list of registered plumbers.

In addition EcoWater hosted a pipeline rehabilitation workshop for local utility network operators on 28 November 2003 to share ideas on developing more effective stormwater infiltration and inflow control programmes for private drains.

As part of the workshop the relining of a faulty wastewater ceramic pipeline on a property owned by Council was undertaken as a demonstration project at no cost to Council. The cost effectiveness and the long-term performance of this technique compared to complete pipe replacement will then be evaluated as an on going project.

Council's current policy on private drains will be reviewed as part of the assessment of water services.



RESOURCES

Provision has been made in the Long Term Council Community Plan for the assessment of water services, which includes wastewater. The funding allocation covers the cost of various models required and specialist technical input to the assessment.

CONCLUSION

The outcome from investigations by the Rodney District Council and North Shore City Council for wastewater options along with a range of other new wastewater technologies will be included in Council's assessment of wastewater services.

The assessment of wastewater services must be completed by 30 June 2005 as part of the assessment of water services.

A further progress report will be submitted to the Environmental Management Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2004, including the results of the investigation of water cycle management options for the Northern Strategic Growth Area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information and presentations be received.
2. That a report be brought back to the Environmental Management Committee at its meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 9 March 2004 updating the work in progress.

Report prepared by: Richard Taylor, Assets and Network Manager.



8 WAITAKERE RANGES PROJECT - CONSULTATION UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Environmental Management Committee with an update on the Waitakere Ranges project, in particular the results of phase one of the consultation.

BACKGROUND

The Council is currently undertaking a project to determine whether long-term protection of the Ranges is adequate, and if not, what should be done. This has involved pulling together the research and information relating to the Ranges, looking at how the Ranges are currently managed, what gaps exist and how they might potentially be filled.

There are three key components to this project:

Research and Information Gathering

Work has been underway since April pulling together the various pieces of research and information on the Ranges held by a number of different agencies. It has been found through this exercise that the research is often site or project specific and fragmented, so that gaining a holistic picture of the health of the Ranges has been difficult. However, signals indicated that pressures do exist with the key ones including subdivision and development, animal pests, weeds and visitor impacts. A summary discussion document has been produced and widely distributed as part of the community consultation. It is anticipated that the more detailed report will be completed by early December.

Community Consultation

A 3-phase community consultation process was signed off at the Committee's July meeting.

Phase One -

Purpose: To share with the community information gathered, discuss issues and commence the preliminary discussion around possible responses. Preliminary analysis is set out below.

Phase Two -

Purpose: To discuss potential responses in more detail. Two community forums and a hui will be organised in late January and February 2004. These will be run as a series so that outcomes from the first day will feed into the second day for further work. Key pieces of work for this phase include the consultation report from phase one and policy work identifying and analysing the responses available.

Phase Three -

A consultation programme will be developed to take the preferred response(s) of the Council and its partners to the community for final comment.

Response Development

Policy work will be undertaken to support phase two of the community consultation process, and the decision making of the Council and its partners in this project. A report will be produced for phase II of the community consultation that describes the responses available and their associated advantages and disadvantages.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Waitakere Ranges Protection project is a key project within the Green Network platform of the Long Term Council Community Plan. The 'Green Network' strategic platform contains a vision that would see streams and forests full of life, the Waitakere Ranges permanently protected and a Green Network in place linking the Ranges to the sea, as well as connecting the everyday lives of the people of Waitakere with the natural world.

Council has indicated a strong commitment to working on protection of the Ranges, whilst recognising that there are many different values relating to the Ranges, and that much is already being done to achieve protection. However, the tools for protection are many and varied, and community views diverse. A robust process is crucial for achieving community understanding of, and long-term commitment to, any solutions that might arise from the process.

RESOURCES

Budget for the Waitakere Ranges project has exceeded that allowed for in the 2003/2004 Annual Plan (\$30,000). The First Quarterly Review of Council's budgets will address the funding.

ISSUES

The last of the fifteen phase 1 workshops were completed on 13 November, with the written comments deadline passing on 17 November. At the time of writing this report the results of the consultation were being drawn together. It is anticipated that a report on the consultation will be available in December.

Advice was sought from community members as to how the workshops could be run as appropriate for that community. The messages to the community include the acknowledgement of the considerable work undertaken to produce the West Coast Plan and the good work happening in the community without rules and legislation, especially in relation to weeds and animal pests. Fifteen workshops were undertaken throughout the city. These were widely advertised through flyer drops, newspaper articles and advertising (including community newsletters) and community groups assisting in the distribution of information. Massey and New Lynn Community Boards also took out displays to community places to further inform the public of the project.

Below is a list of the workshops with approximate attendee numbers. Note that the attendee numbers are based on those who actually registered, and in many cases the numbers are likely to be slightly underrepresented. A number of people attended more than one workshop.

Henderson/Kelston	(17)
Massey	(12)
Swanson	(58)
Summerlands/Sturges	(3)
Karekare	(20)
Business Group	(14)
Waitakere Township	(22)
Te Atatu Peninsula	(9)
Waiatarua	(28)
Piha	(36)
Laingholm	(20)
Huia/Cornwallis/Parau	(36)
Bethells/Te Hendga	(37)
Titirangi	(112)
Oratia	(38)
Total	462

Presentations were also given at:

- Te Taumata Runanga
- Te Whanau O Waipareira Trust Monthly Meeting
- Te Roopu Puawai O Waitakere
- Waitakere City Secondary Schools Youth Council
- Pacific Islands Advisory Board

The report on the consultation results currently being prepared will include analysis of:

- The Workshops, Including
- The Comment Forms Submitted (approximately 48 to date)
- The Regional Phone Survey

Once the report is finalised it will be distributed to workshop participants and other community members who have registered an interest. A copy of the notes taken at each of the workshops will be appended to the report.

A verbal report will be made at the Environmental Management Committee meeting on the consultation results.

CONCLUSION

A report is currently being developed on the results of the community consultation. A verbal update will be presented at the Committee's December meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Waitakere Ranges Project report be received.

Report prepared by: Kim Morresey, Partnerships and Advocacy Leader, Environmental and Jenny MacDonald, Strategic Leader.



9 WAICARE AS A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from the Environmental Management Committee for the Wai Care Programme to be formalised by entering into a Regional Shared Services Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Wai Care is an environmental initiative developed by the local and regional councils of the Auckland region. Councils involved in the programme are as follows: Auckland City, North Shore City, Waitakere City, Manukau City, Rodney District Council and the Auckland Regional Council.

A pilot Wai Care programme was launched in early 2000 with a total of twelve groups from across the region, two of which were in Waitakere - namely, Friends of the Whau and Kelston Boys. The pilot programme lasted six months. During this time a shared set of resources for groups was developed in co-operation with each council, which included input from the pilot groups themselves. Minister of the Environment Rt Honourable Marian Hobbs officially launched the programme in September 2000.

The aim of the programme is to bring together schools and community groups to test the water quality of their local streams and waterways and take practical steps to manage and prevent pollution events.

Wai Care is made up of a Steering Committee with representatives from the contributing councils. The role of this Steering Committee is to set the financial and strategic direction of the programme. Each council is responsible for employing a co-ordinator whose job is to liaise with and provide the necessary hands-on support that Wai Care groups require. The Auckland Regional Council has the task of employing a Regional Co-ordinator who's role is to ensure that the Wai Care programme is delivered in a consistent manner across the region and that each council is provided with the necessary kits and supplies needed to carry out the programme.

To date there are approximately 56 groups across the region that are participating in the Wai Care programme, 16 of these groups are within Waitakere City.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Wai Care is a key project within the Green Network where improved water quality and a better habitat for native fish is a measure.

Wai Care is also a key component of the Three Waters Strategy, one of which is to educate and support people to care for streams and safeguard water resources.

Wai Care groups often become landcare groups as they carry out restoration and planting to improve the stream they are monitoring. By committing to a shared service agreement these long-term strategic goals are more likely to be achieved.

ISSUES

Since its 2000 launch the Wai Care programme has grown rapidly with the number of groups participating in the programme outpacing the expected demand catered for in the Wai Care Business Plan. Currently there is an informal arrangement between participating councils on the level of funding which should be contributed to the programme. This leaves the programme open to budget fluctuations and an inability to plan for future growth or maximise opportunities to attract external sponsorship.

To address these concerns the Wai Care Steering Committee has carried out a study to identify and recommend an organisational structure, taking into account the following:

- The ability to secure funding;
- Ability to recruit and manage volunteer groups;
- Retaining the involvement of enthusiastic and motivated officers;
- Providing a durable structure which will survive changes in council policy;
- The ability to receive sponsorship and other third party funding; and
- Allow flexibility of level of involvement for individual councils.

After researching a number of similar organisations the Steering Committee has identified two possible funding and structure options.

- Options 1 - Memorandum of Understanding (shared services agreement), which would formalise the arrangement, which is already in place between member councils.
- Option 2 - Establishing a charitable trust and a Memorandum of Understanding. Under this option a charitable trust is established by the member councils under the "Council-controlled organisations" provisions of the Local Government Act 2002. Council's would hand the overall responsibility for the delivery of the programme over to the Trust. The Trust in turn would have to deliver the programme according to a Memorandum of Understanding (shared services agreement), which would formalise the arrangement already in place between member councils.

The Wai Care Steering Group have agreed to pursue the option of implementing a Memorandum of Understanding, or shared services agreement between member councils (option 1). Under a Shared Services agreement the Wai Care programme would continue to operate with a statement of purpose, workload projections, and performance measures and targets. Delivery of service would still be the domain of the participating councils and each council would continue to have a Steering Committee representative at the strategic and management level and its Wai Care Co-ordinators at the operational level.

The Shared Services agreement would also cover off areas such as financial commitment to the programme, conditions of withdrawing from the programme so that remaining councils have time to consider or adjust their commitment to the programme and provisions, which allow other Councils within the region to join. Councils who have expressed an interest in the programme but who are yet to join are Papakura District Council and Franklin District Council.

Whilst not excluding the possibility of exploring other options at a later stage, the Shared Services was seen as the best option for the following reasons:

- The Shared Services framework is already in place and proven to be a successful means by which councils, within the region, work collectively on issues of regional concern.
- The Shared Services framework provides a forum by which Local and Regional authorities can continue to share and discuss information relating to water resources issues in general through out the region and how best they can be addressed in upcoming documents such Long Term Council Community Plans.
- A Shared Services agreement for the Wai Care programme is a simple and cost effective option to implement especially when compared to the Legal and operating costs associated with operating a Charitable Trust.

RESOURCES

Budget for the Wai Care project is allowed for in the 2003/2004 Annual Plan but will need to be considered by Council for 2004/2005. Costs are reduced by sharing costs with other Councils enabling bulk buying of test kits and chemicals, and sharing costs for the web site and education programmes.

CONCLUSION

Due to its rapid growth and desire to strengthen its future role as a leading environmental action and education programme, the Wai Care programme needs to secure long term funding. In order to address this issue the Wai Care Steering Committee has investigated the following options:

- Memorandum of Understanding (shared services agreement) which would formalise the arrangement, which is already in place between member councils.
- A charitable trust structure which would be accountable to participating councils through a Memorandum of Understanding which would outline a statement of purpose, workload projections, and performance measures and targets.

Whilst not excluding the possibility of exploring other options at a later stage, the Shared Services option is seen as the best option to adopt. The framework for local authority co-operation on regional issues is already in place and it is a more cost effective to implement, especially when compared to the legal and operating costs associated with operating a Charitable Trust.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the information be received.

1. That approval be given in principle to the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Wai Care programme as a shared services agreement between the councils of the Auckland region.
2. That a report be brought back to the Environmental Management Committee for consideration of the Memorandum of Understanding and funding in the 2004/2005 Annual Plan.

Report prepared by: Graham Leonard, Water Quality Technician.



PART II - DISTRICT PLAN / STRUCTURE PLANS

10 ISSUES SURROUNDING THE OPEN SPACE ENVIRONMENT PROVISIONS OF THE DISTRICT PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is prepared as a discussion document and to inform the Environmental Management Committee of a possible plan change to the District Plan provisions relating to the rules of the Open Space Environment and the Natural Areas to better facilitate development and general maintenance within parks and reserves in the City. The District Plan provides for activities on parks and reserves within the Open Space Environment. The Natural Area rules also apply to many activities undertaken in parks and reserves.

A series of reports by the Parks Planning Section of the Council has identified a number of concerns with the approach to parks and reserves in the District Plan, namely the need for resource consents for so many activities on parks and the associated costs.

The issues raised by the Parks Planning Section of the Council have been investigated and considered. Options to address these issues are identified, and possible amendments to the provisions of the District Plan, are outlined.

BACKGROUND

Existing Provisions of the Waitakere City District Plan Relating to Open Space

District Plan Format

When the District Plan was formulated the intention was to prepare a Parks Strategy followed by the preparation of the reserve management plans for the City's parks and reserves. Each reserve management plan was then expected to outline specifically what activities/development would be provided on the park. The Waitakere City Council Parks Strategy was completed in April 1999, however, currently only 27% of parks and reserves in the City have Reserve Management Plans. Several of these are due for review. The Open Space Environment makes no provision for permitted activities on a park or reserve without an Operative Reserve Management Plan. In addition provision for future development in reserve management plans is often generalised. Thus both the lack of reserve management plans for the City's parks and reserves and the lack of detail for future development in existing reserve management plans necessitates a large number of resource consents. The rules for the Natural Areas in the District Plan control vegetation alteration and earthworks, and without an Operative Reserve Management Plan there is limited provision for general maintenance to be undertaken in parks without resource consents being required.

Two layers of land-use management form the basis for applying the policies and rules of the District Plan. Both layers of the District Plan lie across the whole City and manage the effects of activities on the environment. These management areas (called Natural Areas) are defined around certain key resources, around their relative significance or importance, and the level of protection required to ensure their continued health and survival.

Open Space Environment

The Open Space Environment, as defined in the Proposed Plan, is a Human Environment, which comprises areas of publicly owned space ranging from large park areas in the Waitakere Ranges to small local reserves in the urban environments. These areas enable people and communities to provide for their social and recreational wellbeing by providing opportunities for passive and active recreation. The Open Space Environment includes land in both the urban and non urban parts of the City.

District Plan Policies relating to the Open Space Environment

There are a number of objectives and policies, which are relevant to the Open Space Environment. The objectives and policies seek to ensure that parks are well designed, promote green network linkages, provide for public access linkages between areas of public land and along waterways and the coast and enhance and protect native vegetation and fauna habitat.

The Green Network is an integral component of the Council's strategic direction. It is defined in the glossary of the Policy Section of the District Plan as "the combination of significant and outstanding natural and physical resources within the City which are grouped together to enable a comprehensive management approach. Areas included in the Green Network are significant and outstanding vegetation and fauna habitat, natural coastal areas, riparian margins, outstanding natural features and ecological linkages and restoration areas.

The rules for vegetation alteration, earthworks and impermeable surfaces in the Natural Areas control the effects of development in parks and reserves.

Background to Existing Open Space Environment Provisions

The approach taken in the District Plan has been to integrate Reserve Management Plans to direct activity in the Open Space Environment. The Reserve Management Plans were considered to be more effective in terms of managing impacts on the reserves themselves, while District Plan rules are deemed to be most effective in managing the effects on surrounding areas. Although Reserve Management Plans were seen as the most suitable tool for ensuring park development (activity programmes, recreational facilities and design issues), the lack of Operative Reserve Management Plans for parks has meant that the approach has not been as effective as was intended and has created significant compliance costs.

Issue/s Identification

The issues in relation to the Open Space provisions were initially identified by the Manager of Landscape and Planning Section (Parks) who wrote a series of reports dating from May 2001 relating to the provisions in the Proposed District Plan and their impact on the management and development of parks and reserves in the City. The issues identified in the reports are as follows:

- The existing provisions for the Open Space Environment were formulated to provide for development in parks and reserves in conjunction with Reserve Management Plans. As there are only Operative Reserve Management Plans for about 10% of the parks and reserves in the City this means that the majority of development undertaken by the Parks Section requires resource consent.
- The number and cost of obtaining resource consents to undertake work in parks and reserves is a significant annual cost to the Parks Section.
- The use of Reserve Management Plans as a tool to manage open space in the District Plan given that the Reserves Act 1977 is concerned with the classification and purpose of the reserve and Reserve Management Plans reflect this function, and are therefore, "primarily policy documents and are broad in detail". The level of information in Operative Reserve Management Plan is often not detailed enough for an activity to be assessed as a Permitted Activity by the rules of the Open Space Environment.
- The need for further categories within the Natural Area rules to allow for maintenance of existing parks facilities and infrastructure

The report also noted inconsistencies in the range of activities permitted by the definitions and rules relating to the Open Space Environment. Many activities on reserves such as standard park signs, seats, and tables are not provided for under the definition of "parks buildings" and by their very nature would have less impact on the environment than a 100m² parks building allowed as a permitted activity.

Hence activities and development on parks/reserves provided for in an Operative Reserve Management Plan can generally proceed as permitted activities in the Open Space Environment provided they satisfy the bulk and location rules and the Natural Area rules. However, if there is no Operative Reserve Management Plan not only is a resource consent required for any proposal, but the status of the consent is automatically Non-complying, which can mean full notification. Also, an activity or proposal may be mentioned in an Operative Reserve Management Plan but the level of detail provided is insufficient thereby requiring a resource consent. Furthermore the research conducted showed that activities and development on parks/reserves, particularly maintenance, generally also required resource consents in terms of the Natural Area rules.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Waitakere City Strategic Plan

The City's parks and reserves constitute a large part of the Green Network, and enhancing and protecting it, is an integral part of the Council's strategic direction. Therefore ensuring that the District Plan provisions allow for the timely, cost effective and sustainable development of parks and reserves is consistent with the Council's strategic direction.

The importance of parks and reserves in the City is further emphasised in the Long Term Council Community Plan which makes provision for parks and reserves through three of the nine strategic platforms.

The Long Term Council Community Plan breakdown of 'what you get for your rates' states spending on parks and reserves is 15% of every dollar from the rates, being the second highest expenditure after wastewater. In the context of existing expenditure on parks, the importance placed on the Green Network and the provision of open space for the well being of the city's residents, and the increasing usage of parks expected in the future, the provision of timely, cost effective and sustainable development is essential.

The District Plan is one of several tools available to facilitate the use and protection of the City's open spaces. The Waitakere City Council Parks Strategy - April 1999 is another management tool, which should be used as a guide when there is no Operative Reserve Management Plan available. Currently there is no reference to it in the assessment criteria for assessing development proposals in the Open Space Environment. The Natural Areas in the District Plan are the management layer of the Green Network. The maintenance and restoration (such as weed removal) undertaken in parks and reserves are controlled by the rules of the Natural Areas and there needs to be provision for this as permitted activities in association with appropriate methodologies and monitoring systems in the Parks Section of Council.

The Resource Management Act 1991

The purpose of the Resource Management Act as outlined in Part II of the Act is the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Part II also outlines the matters, including those of national importance, to which Council must have regard to and provide for in achieving that purpose. The purpose of a District Plan as outlined in Section 72 of the Resource Management Act is to assist Council to carry out its functions. Councils' functions are outlined in Section 31 as the control of actual and potential effects of the use, development or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources in order to achieve the purpose of the Act. Council is to establish, implement and review the objectives, policies and methods to achieve this and can also include rules, which prohibit, regulate or allow activities.

Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 requires that a local authority monitor the suitability and effectiveness of its plan in managing the City's environment. Council therefore has a duty and care to ensure that its District Plan remains relevant in order to achieve integrated management of its natural and physical resources.

Auckland Regional Council

Section 75 of the Resource Management Act requires that a District Plan must not be inconsistent with a regional policy statement or plan. The Auckland Regional Policy Statement is now operative. Objective 2 of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement Strategic Objectives states "To maintain and enhance the overall quality of the environment of metropolitan Auckland, including its unique maritime setting, volcanic features, cultural heritage values, and **public open space**." (writer's emphasis). Also of relevance is Objective 8 "To manage the Region's natural and physical resources in an integrated manner." These objectives are reflected in the Waitakere City's District Plan and are not in conflict.

Changes to the District Plan to address the issues relating to the Open Space Environment and the Natural Areas would not have any implications in terms of regional strategies and objectives, and would be consistent with the Auckland Regional Policy Statement.

ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

Current District Plan Provisions

The Open Space Environment rules provide for the bulk and location, and traffic generation only for *parks buildings*. If the *parks buildings* meet the bulk and location controls and are provided for in an Operative Reserve Management Plan then the activity is permitted. For *parks buildings*, which do not meet the bulk and location controls but are provided for in an Operative Management Plan they could be assessed as Limited Discretionary or Discretionary Activities. Otherwise *parks buildings* must be assessed as a Non-complying Activity, which could be a notified application. A similar regime applies to signs in parks. The definition in the District Plan for *Parks buildings* means any *building* on a *reserve*, but shall not include:

- children's play equipment;
- buildings of up to 100m² in gross floor area used for the storage of parks equipment or maintenance materials; or
- goal posts.

Thus there is no provision for field structures other than goal posts, parks furniture, parks infrastructure, such as tracks, cycle ways etc. and maintenance and landscaping all of which potentially have a relatively low impact on the environment.

The Natural Area rules are even more limited in terms of the provisions made for work in parks. There is provision in the vegetation alteration rules for the maintenance or provision of track and trail systems where provided for in park management plans as a permitted activity, but there is no provision in the earthworks rules for the maintenance or provision of track and trail systems where provided for in park management plans.

Therefore it is considered that the range of uses provided for in the Open Space Environment and under the Natural Area rules associated with parks is unduly restrictive.

Analysis of Resource Consents and Costs

An analysis of 182 resource consents in the Open Space Environment in the period from January 2000 to August 2002, was undertaken.

The largest number of resource consents were for vegetation removal/alteration or earthworks in the various natural areas, and equated to 117 or 63.5% of the resource consents processed, of which 62 or 53% related to vegetation alteration of one kind or another and 37 or 31% related to earthworks and 7% required consents for both vegetation and earthworks. The remaining 9 or 7% of applications were not been sighted and it is unclear what infringements were involved, as they were described as "development of reserve" or some non-specific comment.

Only 39 or 21% of the consents were solely related to the Open Space Environment rules, and these were mainly for buildings including additions/alterations to existing buildings.

The number of resource consents, which were combined requiring consents for both Open Space and Natural Area rules was 18 or 9.7% of all resource consents.

One of the issues identified relates to the costs to the Parks Section associated with obtaining resource consents. As all parks and reserves are publicly owned, potentially, the Council meets most of the costs for resource consents. While resource consents are required for vegetation alteration and tree removal there is no processing fee. However, the use of consultants to prepare the application is a cost to the Parks Section, along with staff time spent briefing consultants. Although some clubs and community organisations are responsible for fees as well as other sections of Council such as EcoWater, the Parks Section was responsible for meeting 69% (\$98,442.00) of the costs of resource consent processing fees over the period analysed.

The protection of the natural environment would be maintained if the provisions of the District Plan are changed to allow more flexibility in relation to development and maintenance in parks and reserves. However, ensuring that parks and reserves are well maintained and free of weeds is onerous and achieving savings by reducing the need for resource consents for maintenance and some of the more minor parks activities would be a more efficient use of Council funds.

Potential Plan Change

It is not anticipated that the plan change would eliminate all reference to Reserve Management Plans, as their preparation involves extensive community consultation. However as only a small percentage of the City's parks have Reserve Management Plans total reliance on them is not practical. In the absence of Reserve Management Plans the Waitakere City Council Parks Strategy could provide some guidance and be added to the criteria for assessing applications. Increasing the range of definitions as discussed above and then adding and expanding the uses (covered by the definitions) into the rules for Open Space Environment and the Natural Areas would reduce the number of applications for resource consent.

The existing policies for open space would not need to be changed because they would continue to be relevant to the protection and preservation of vegetation and the natural character of the coastal environment on public land, the creation of reserves upon subdivision and the location and design of public spaces. Section 6.2.7 of the Explanation part of the District Plan contains the philosophy or approach to Open Space Management and this would need to be modified to reflect the changes. Therefore, it would be desirable to have a new policy to acknowledge the changes.

The proposed plan change is needed to facilitate ease of management of public open space, which will benefit the wider public by providing better value for their rates.

Essentially the Plan Change would consist of the following:

- Changing the Open Space rules to delete reference to Reserve Management Plans.
- Including new assessment criteria requiring consideration of any relevant Reserve Management Plans and/or the Waitakere City Council Parks Strategy 1999.
- Introducing new definitions for Parks facilities (furniture, etc.), parks infrastructure (footpaths, etc) and parks maintenance in the District Plan.
- Changing the Natural Area rules to delete reference to Reserve Management Plans and to include parks maintenance.
- Introducing a new policy making reference to delete reference to Reserve Management Plans.
- Changing the explanation in the District Plan to reflect the changes in approach.

Approaches in District Plans of other Local Authorities to the Issue

A review of the approaches to public open space in the adjoining Local Authorities of North Shore City and Rodney District Council was undertaken. The District Plans for both local authorities provide for open space within traditional recreation zones, but both serve to illustrate the types of activities that are to be expected in parks and which potentially have a low impact on the environment. Furthermore, reserve management plans have a much less significant role in relation to recreation zones of both District Plans.

RESOURCES

Plan Change Priorities and Current Work Programme

The issue has a high strategic value and there are adequate resources to progress the Plan Change within existing budgets.

CONCLUSION

Overall it is concluded that a plan change should be undertaken to address the need for a wider range of activities and facilities in the Open Space Environment and Natural Area rules of the District Plan in order that general maintenance can be undertaken and parks infrastructure can be provided without the need for resource consents, in order to reduce compliance costs to the Parks Section of Council whilst still protecting the amenity and environmental values of parks and reserves. The Plan Change should also address the total reliance on Operative Reserve Management Plans as a method for managing activities in the City's public open space given that only 27% of reserves currently have such plans, when reference to other parks documents such as the Waitakere City Council Parks Strategy 1999 could be used as a guide.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the District Plan provisions relating to the rules of the Open Space Environment and Natural Areas be amended to allow a greater range of parks facilities (furniture), parks infrastructure (footpaths) and parks maintenance to be included as permitted activities.
3. That a proposed plan change introducing new definitions for Parks Facilities, Infrastructure and Maintenance, amending rules of the Open Space Environment and Natural Areas to provide for the above, amending the explanation and including any consequential changes to the policies, be brought back to this Committee for consideration prior to public notification.

Report prepared by: Pamela Wells, Planner: Policy Implementation.

PART III - PUBLIC EXCLUDED ITEM

11 DISTRICT PLAN - EGGINK APPEAL

This item will be considered in the Confidential Supplement of the agenda, and has been circulated to members separately with this agenda.

PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting, namely District Plan - Eggink Appeal.

The general subject of the matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation of the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of the matter to be considered.	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter.	Ground(s) under Section 48(1)(a) for the passing of this resolution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">District Plan - Eggink Appeal	<p>The withholding of information is necessary in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintain legal professional privilege.Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	<p>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.</p>

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 7(2)(g)(i) of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as follows:

- The information contains legal issues currently before the Environmental Court, which if released would affect the Council's negotiations.*

