

Report No:	REP11-07-11
File No:	S611
Date:	4 July 2011
<b>Information Only - no decision required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Environment & Planning Committee

**Meeting Date:** 14 July 2011

**Report Author:** Dennis Bush-King, Environment & Planning Manager

**Subject:** **MANAGER'S REPORT**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers a number of general matters concerning the activities of the Environment & Planning Department.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the manager's Report REP11-07-11**

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## **1. Abel Tasman Foreshore Reserve Management Plan**

- 1.1 The Abel Tasman Foreshore Reserve Management Plan has been a “work in progress” for the last 11 years or so. It has finally been publicly notified and submissions close 19 August. The foreshore reserve is jointly administered by an Administration Committee comprising the chief Executive of Tasman District Council and the Regional Conservator of the Department of Conservation, with powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation.
- 1.2 Under the Conservation Act a reserve management plan is approved by the relevant Conservation Board except in this case the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board has delegated its power of approval to a Management Plan Approval Committee which will comprise the two members of the Administration Committee, a representative of the Conservation Board, Tasman District Council, and two iwi appointees
- 1.3 Councillor Norriss has long been involved with issues surrounding the creation of the reserve and it is recommended that he be appointed as the Tasman District Council representative on the Management Plan Approval Committee
- 1.4 Recommendation**

**That Cr Trevor Norriss be appointed as the Tasman District Council representative on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Reserve Management Plan Approval Committee**

## **2. Freedom Camping Bill**

- 2.1 Staff prepared a submission on the Freedom Camping Bill alerting the Select committee to the fact that our bylaw came into force 31 May 2011 (see Appendix 1). Department of Internal Affairs had advised that our name would have been listed anyway but we took the opportunity to press for clarification on who becomes liable for any infringement fine.

## 2.2 Recommendation

**That the Environment & Planning Committee notes and endorses the submission made on the Freedom Camping Bill dated 20 June 2011.**

### 3. National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry

3.1 In September 2010 the Government released a proposed National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry to which a submission was made. Because of the response, the Ministry for the Environment sought feedback and this has resulted in a number of changes to the original proposed policy. Staff, with Councillor, assistance prepared a further submission which is attached as Annex 2.

3.2 The Ministry has attempted to classify the country according to erosion susceptibility but are working to a scale that may make it difficult for Council's and landowners to know where the effect of the NES falls in relation to legal boundaries. It seems the Government is expecting a different standard of definition than case law has imposed on Council's where planning maps must be in sufficient detail to enable the effect of any provision to be properly ascertained.

### 3.3 Recommendation

**That the Environment & Planning Committee notes and endorses the submission made on the proposed National Environmental Standard on Plantation Forestry attached as Annex 2 to Report REP11-07-11.**

### 4. Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes Regulations 2010

4.1 We will report further on implementation of these Regulations at the August meeting but Councillors may wish to note that letters have gone to the Water User Groups keeping them informed. We have also sent letters to all Moutere groundwater users to remind them that their consents come up for renewal next year and that this may be useful opportunity for them to review their water needs particularly if there is the possibility that some allocations could be relinquished or transferred to those who need access to more water. The Moutere water user Group has been instrumental in pursuing this opportunity.

### 5. Sea Grass Trials

5.1 Following on from the Waimea Estuary Strategy, staff have undertaken a trial to propagate sea grass just off Bronte Point and across the channel from Grossi Point and Hunter Brown Reserve. The aim is to trial re-establishment of lost habitat - loss of sea grass is a worldwide issue and is important because it is a nursery habitat for many animals, including important recreational and commercial fish species such as flounder, gurnard, kahawai and trevally. Acknowledging this importance Ministry of Fisheries have spent a lot of money

investigating the location and cover of seagrass throughout the country, as well as into research into ecological processes in these habitats.

- 5.2 Seagrass now covers just 0.8% of the intertidal area in the Waimea Estuary. It is thought that the major loss of sea grass occurred in the period from the 1950s and 60s with heavy sediment inputs from land uses such as orcharding around the estuary. However, a 2006 Cawthron report shows a continued decline with 64% lost between 1988 and 2006 (from 58 hectares to 21 hectares). As a local comparison, Nelson Haven, which itself lost about 100 hectares between 1985 and 2009, still has 100-120 hectares of seagrass - five times much as Waimea Estuary, despite being only a third of its size.
- 5.3 The continued recent loss could be due to residual effects from resuspension of muds deposited in the estuary decades ago. Studies to date suggest that the rate of sediment input is generally now very much lower than decades ago which could mean that sea grass could be re-established successfully. Even if sediment inputs are still too high at some of the locations where the clods have been re-established, they are likely to establish in other locations in the clearest, least muddy parts of the estuary. Clods were installed at sites covering a gradient from high to low water clarity and bed muddiness. We will monitor the survival/spread of seagrass annually when we measure the sedimentation rates. In this process we hope to better understand the drivers for re-establishment of sea grass.

## **6. Air Quality Monitoring**

- 6.1 As at time of writing (5 July) there has only been two breaches of the air quality standard for Richmond. This is well down on any previous year. A full report will be submitted at the end of the season but it is noted that one of the reasons for a drop in building consents is that there has been a marked reduction in log burner consents.

## **7. Earthquake Prone Buildings**

- 7.1 We reported last month that we had sought advice from the Department of Building and Housing (DHB) about whether they would agree to a delay in reviewing our Policy on Earthquake Prone Buildings in light of establishment of a Royal Commission into the Canterbury Earthquake. Our Policy is due for review now. The DHB has said we should continue so staff will bring a revised policy to the next meeting.
- 7.2 In the interim Councillors will be aware that the Board of trustees of the Golden Bay High School have agreed to vacate a two storey classroom block. Ministry of Education officials have worked with Council staff in reviewing the engineering report. We are also working closely with the school in consenting replacement buildings which are to be moved on site.

<b>8. DRAFT RESOLUTION</b>
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**THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the manager's Report  
REP11-07-11**



Dennis Bush-King  
**Environment & Planning Manager**

**Appendices:**

1. Freedom Camping Submission
2. Submission on Proposed National Environment Standard on Plantation Forestry