



## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Environment & Planning Committee

**FROM:** Dennis Bush-King, Environment & Planning Manager

**REFERENCE:** S611

**SUBJECT:** **MANAGER'S REPORT - REPORT REP10-07-12-** Report prepared for meeting of 1 July 2010

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### 1. BUDGET CARRY-OVERS

Regrettably four projects have not been completed in 2009/2010 financial year and approval is required to carry over the associated funding. The projects are:

- a) 02142203 Air Quality modelling (\$12,000). This work was delayed due to health issues with the consultant working on the job and technical difficulties. These difficulties meant the model was not performing as expected and extra time was taken to find answers. There was a breakthrough in the week of 14 June and the project is back on course with a new deadline for the draft output and report of 31 August.
- b) 02046101 - Technical Equipment (\$15,000). We had proposed to purchase some Hydrological flow measurement equipment but due to changing specifications we did not wish to commit to purchase. It is likely that by later this year a better technology for a similar price will be available and we should delay until then.
- c) 02102203 - Soil survey (\$15,000). The reason for the delay in completing this is that the guideline for soil collection has changed (at a national level). We had planned to sample late summer 2010 but the new guideline requires sampling during spring. This change seeks to establish national consistency in the soil monitoring programme, especially when looking at the effects of cadmium build up from phosphate based fertiliser use. This is an emerging issue in the rural sector.
- d) 0211 2203 - Science support to the Waimea Estuary Project (\$20,000). We had planned to complete an investigation into sedimentation rates into the Waimea Estuary. Core sampling and analysis is required to firmly establish the sedimentation rate and will assist council with its understanding of the issue and is necessary to address public concerns over the issue. There has been a substantial delay in getting soil cores processed by the National Radiation Laboratory and we can not get into the queue until later this year without committing extra funds. Accordingly we have held over this project.

These projects, which are general rate funded, are all within the Environmental Information cost centre which is running a surplus. This has been assisted through getting the Government to cover the disposal costs of the unwanted agricultural programme for which we had budgeted extra funds as a one-off. The unspent allocation is around \$70,000. Accordingly it is considered the carry-overs can occur without any negative fiscal impact.

## **Recommendation**

**That the Environment & Planning Committee agrees to carry over into the 2010/2011 financial year of the following unspent budgets:**

**02142203 Air Quality Modelling - \$12,000**

**02046101 - Technical Equipment - \$15,000**

**02102203 - Soil survey - \$15,000**

**0211 2203 - Science support to the Waimea Estuary Project - \$20,000**

## **2. DOG REGISTRATION UNDERWAY**

Dog owners have until 31 July to register their dogs. Annual reminder notices have been sent out and a steady stream of enquiries have been responded to. Some 30% of our 10,094 known dogs have so far already been registered. As at 30 June last year 52% of our known dogs were registered. There have not too many issues to deal with at this stage but that usually occurs when the penalties kick in August! I am happy that even with the increase to \$47.00 for an urban dog, our fees are still in the lower quartile of fees nationally reflecting good value for money.<sup>1</sup>

## **3. THE FUTURE OF PEST MANAGEMENT**

The Government has released a discussion paper on the Future of Pest Management. Its purpose is to improve pest management systems to meet New Zealand's needs over the next 25 years. Pests include land-based pests, freshwater pests in lakes, rivers and streams, and marine pests in the sea out to 12 nautical miles. It does not include border biosecurity or incursion response - these are being handled in other projects.

Five issues have been identified.

- Lack of clarity in overall roles and accountabilities for pest management.
- The Crown's obligations as a "good neighbour" landowner do not match those of other parties.
- The 1993 Biosecurity Act needs updating
- There is a lack of control and pest management monitoring tools for future needs.
- Collective action and participation in pest management is insufficient.

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<sup>1</sup> Nelson City fees are \$80.50 [standard], \$63.50 [good dog owner - special conditions apply], \$46.50 [rural dog].

Key solutions include:

- Ensuring legislation identifies the purpose and functions of the different agencies and defines national and regional leadership roles for MAF and Councils.
- The Minister for Biosecurity will determine jurisdiction in complex cases.
- Interim policy for default roles for pest management in the marine environment

Proposed amendments to the Biosecurity Act include:

- A requirement for Crown land managing agencies to meet good neighbour obligations under regional pest management strategies.
- Defining the purpose and functions for effective pest management by central and regional government.
- More flexible pest management strategies.
- A new regulatory tool for managing domestic pathways.
- A more comprehensive legal review to follow.
- Integrated toolbox management.
- Measuring performance of pest programmes and overall system.

Two key decisions that have been made are:

- The Crown will be required to meet the good neighbour obligations in the Regional Pest Management Strategies
- Providing for the development of national policy

Submissions close 19 July and unless the Committee considers otherwise, we will work with Local Government New Zealand in preparing a submission.

#### **4. NEW PEST INCURSION - LARGE WHITE CABBAGE CATTERPILLARS**

On 27 May, a “new to New Zealand” pest was found in Nelson. Eight caterpillars were found on a Nasturtium plant on a private Nelson property by a member of the public. It has been identified as the Large White Cabbage Butterfly, *Pieris brassicae*, and it is a close relative of the common white butterfly, *Pieris rapae*. It is listed as a nationally unwanted organism and is a serious pest of Brassica crops e.g. cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, swedes and turnips in Britain, Europe, and India,

By now, all caterpillars will have pupated into chrysalises. We will be assisting MAF Biosecurity with surveillance in spring when adult and caterpillar stages are present to determine its distribution. There is no evidence the species is widely distributed, but it is likely that there is a small breeding population in Nelson. They have large flying ranges so can be expected to appear in Tasman at some stage

## 5. ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD - PROGRAMME UPDATE

Annex 1 is a new style report prepared by the Animal Health Board which is submitted. The good news is that we are now down to one infected herd as at 321 May 2010. Does the Committee wish to see future reports or is it happy that these matters are addressed at the TB Tasman Committee level?

## 6. RECOMMENDATION

**It is recommended that this report be received.**



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