

Report No:	REP12-02-12
File No:	S611
Date:	17 February 2012
<b>Information Only – no decision required</b>	

## REPORT SUMMARY

**Report to:** Environment & Planning Committee  
**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, 29 February 2012  
**Report Author:** Rob Smith, Acting Environment & Planning Manager  
**Subject:** **ACTING ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING MANAGER'S REPORT**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That report REP12-02-12 be received.

### DRAFT RESOLUTION

**THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Acting Environment & Planning Manager's Report REP12-02-12**

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## **1. ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD**

1.1 Appendix 1 contains the February Monthly report for the Bovine Tb programme in Tasman

## **2. SUMMER STUDENTS**

2.1 This year we had seven summer students within the department and they proved to be very capable and were able to provide quality work for us. Most returned to university last week.

We are fortunate to have had such a selection of quality candidates locally and I believe we achieved considerable value for money from them, while providing much need work experience to the individuals involved.

## **3. MONITORING AND REPORTING BILL**

3.1 Staff are working with LGNZ and MfE to make sure the implications of this proposal do not unfairly impact on our rate payers. At present it proposes shifting national level state of the environment (SOE) reporting to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and for Regional/Unitary councils to manage a number of SOE sites, sampled and reported for national level purposes. This council submitted on the proposal along with many others. There are cost implications within the proposal for us but in the absence of certainty of costs a decision was made to not budget for any additional requirement that may be imposed. Rather to manage within the existing budgets. The rigidity of the first draft appears to be softening but there is still a desire by the Minister to see a bill before parliament this year. We will keep the committee updated as the situation evolves.

## **4. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD (NES)**

4.1 While on new Central Government initiatives I wish to draw your attention to the National Environmental Standard (NES) for soils that became operative 1 January this year. It has a number of implications for our Consenting team and staff are working to make sure the implications are managed. Of note is

that our residential standard for arsenic in soils has been reduced from the previous 30 ppm to 17 ppm. This will have implications in many areas and particularly for land previously in orchards when it comes to subdivision for residential activities.

#### **5. RIVER HEALTH ROAD SHOW**

Attached as Appendix 2 is a summary form Trevor James on the River Health Road show that he fronted. It covered both surface and ground water quality, riparian habitat and the new Part IV rules in the TRMP. I think you'll see that it was well received and is a good way to engage with the stakeholders. Thank you to Mayor Kempthorn for the opening address and to other Councillors for their attendance at the various meetings.

#### **6. TASMAN RECOVERY TEAM**

You will be aware that there is still considerable effort focused on the recovery effort by this department and Council as a whole. Staff have responded to the situation well, both to the recovery effort or to cove for those staff involved. It certainly demonstrates the calibre of the staff we employ at Tasman.

#### **7. ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING MANAGEMENT**

I have enjoyed my time as acting E&P manager and now hand over to Phil Doole who will step in from tomorrow (1 March).

#### **8. RECOMMENDATION**

That report REP12-02-12 be received

#### **9. DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**THAT the Environment & Planning Committee receives the Acting Environment & Planning Manager's Report REP12-02-12**



Rob Smith  
**Acting Environment & Planning Manager**

#### **Appendices:**

1. AHB Monthly Report - February 2012
2. Report on the River Health Roadshow November 2011

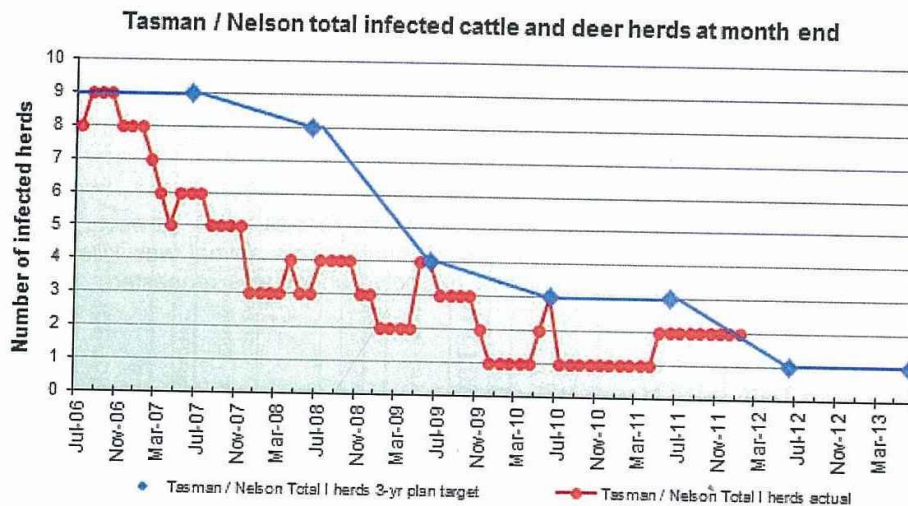


**Number of new TB infections during the financial year**

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12(partial)
5	3	1	0

Note that number of newly infected herds have been decreasing as have the total infected herds as shown in the graph below.

**Long term graph as per Jan 2012**



**Report on the River Health Roadshow****November 2011**

The purpose of the roadshow was:

- To update the participants on new environmental information and some new policy matters.
- To grow a community of interest who want to stay updated on these issues.
- To cultivate a community of commitment who have a strong interest in the future of our region, it's land and water and the potential here for innovative practices to enhance the environment and who want to be part of shaping that future, to let others have a say as well.

There were a total of 130<sup>1</sup> attendees with farmers, foresters and horticulturalists making up just under half of this figure. Unfortunately the timing of the event coincided with a busy time on-farm with bailage/silage. The breakdown of the attendees at each of the meetings is listed below:

- Murchison: 29 (9 farmers)
- Kohatu: 16 (13 farmers)
- Moutere: 18 (~20 farmers/horticulturalists)
- Kotinga #1: 27 (9 farmers)<sup>2</sup>
- Kotinga #2: 10 (6 farmers)
- Motueka: 14 (2 farmers/horticulturalists)
- Richmond: 16 (3 farmers/horticulturalists)

While events like this attract the more environmentally-conscious sector of the community (both primary producers and general public), nearly everyone appeared to learn something and a reasonable proportion were surprised by some of the information. There was a very productive debate between the farming community and the wider community about shared values and awareness of where different parts of the same community were coming from. There were some misconceptions put right. About 70-80% of attendees had not attended previous presentations by Trevor James. There was good feedback about the tone of the workshops – balance between good news and the need to improve.

Farmers really appreciated having farmer leaders such as Roy Benzeman and Sue Brown speak. This seemed to change the attitude of the meetings to one of “can-do”. People liked to know that TDC allowed time for farmers to act in a reasonable timeframe (8 years in the case of the Sherry). Farmers like to hear Roy and Sue’s

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<sup>1</sup> Did not count the panel, other TDC staff, TDC Councillors, Fish and Game staff, other DairyNZ reps, Cawthron Staff, or catchment group representatives eg Roy Benzenman from the Sherry Catchment Group and Sue Brown from the Aorere Catchment Group.

<sup>2</sup> Did not count Lew Metcalf or the 8 staff and councillors from MDC.

honesty that farmers denied the problems and were sceptical of Council but now are happy with Council's approach.

Several well-informed people said that much of the information presented was not new (eg the effects of sediment discharges, cattle in streams and benefits of wetlands was known about 20-30 years ago) were disappointed that Tasman District Council was not managing these environmental issues particularly well. Some people said we needed to do less ('State of the Environment') monitoring and more work on producing guidelines and environmental bottom lines. A lot of comments that there should be more control sediment runoff from farmland and greater use of riparian buffers to control contaminant discharge into waterways. There is a need for a policy review in this area to prevent discharges of sediment to waterways. The forest clearance and land development by CHH was cited by many as a big concern and comments that Council was not doing anything effective about them eg root raking and stump/tree removal from Carter Holt land and over-cleaning and control of ditches. There was accusation point to Council that it was "sitting on its hands" on this issue.

People appreciated knowing the new Part IV rules. There was debate about the fairness of disallowing explicit access to waterways for dairy cows, but not for dry stock and deer (which requires water quality evidence).

Other comments included:

- Weed control of fenced corridors an issue – who is going to help pay for that?
- Willow removal – several people could not understand why Council was still forging ahead with willow removal when it will cause increase in water temperatures that are already on the brink of major environmental effects each summer.
- Oiling of roads – one woman said that a roading engineer sarcastically commented that "oil was good for streams".
- Pesticides in rivers – what information is available?

Murchison was the most positive and optimistic in terms of starting new cooperation. Very generous offers of assistance from many members of the community. Upper Mangles and Tutaki Valley would be a good place to start.

Administrative learnings:

- Providing of meals allowed for good extended conversations afterwards – this money is well spent.
- Glen Lauder was very good at opening the events setting a good tone, involving and engaging most people in a relaxed conversation, and acknowledging the value that many bring to the conversation. Barbara good at giving the reasons why we need to act and work together (also brings a homeliness/hostess quality), Trevor in role as an enthusiastic scientist, Philip

provides insightful observations as to the effectiveness of the meeting and great for setup.

- Advertising was almost too thorough. This was probably as many people as we would get given the time for silage/balage was happening.
- There was a suggestion that Trevor James should attend the Rivercare meetings hosted by the Engineering department to get a more integrated approach to managing rivers in these consultation meetings.