

**Flood Protection
Strategy and Assets
Manager : Brendan Paul**

Report for Period Ending 24 September 1999

1. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

Generally all current construction work on the Waikanae River relates to repairs and capital improvements being undertaken as part of the October 1998 Flood Damage Repair Project. This work is reported separately (Report 99.555) in this order paper.

The Ecological Strategy, which supports the long term operations consents and is being developed in consultation with the Iwi, is nearing completion. The Ecological Strategy will also merge nicely with the Environmental Strategy for the river. A walkover of the river is planned for 14 October to finalise specifics of the draft Ecological Strategy. It is intended to have the strategy completed by 30 October 1999 and a copy of the report will be available on request.

The next meeting of the "Friends of the Waikanae River" is being planned for the week beginning 18 October 1999. Councillors will be advised of the date, when it is finalised. The meeting will confirm the "Friends" Terms of Reference, present the Ecological Strategy, update the group on progress of the State Highway 1 works, and outline the year's maintenance programme.

2. Otaki River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

(1) Otaki Floodplain Management Plan [Graeme Campbell]

The Wellington Fish & Game Council are currently finalising their proposals for Game Bird Shooting on the Otaki River, following our comments on the draft. The proposal will be presented to the "Friends of the Otaki River" at its next meeting, planned for the week beginning 18 October 1999. The "Friends" group will also consider a similar agenda to their Waikanae counterpart.

(2) Upper Rahui Improvements [Paula Williams]

Easements, covering the privately owned land in the stopbank and retreat areas, are being prepared in favour of the Wellington Regional Council. Bank protections are complete within the major retreat area and have commenced in the upstream area. Gravel extraction from the retreat areas is on target.

(3) **Chrystalls Bend Stopbank [Paula Williams]**

A final Design Report, for Stages One and Two of the Chyrstalls Stopbank Upgrade project, is expected shortly. The report will document stopbank design for the proposed 1999/2000 construction and an extended section to the downstream end of the Williams Property. Negotiations are underway to engage the Principal Design Consultant for tender and construction management. Appointment of a contractor, to construct the stopbank, is expected before Christmas.

3. **Hutt River Floodplain Management (HRFMP) [Daya Atapattu]**

Consultation for the Hutt River “Design Standard” was completed on schedule by the end of August 1999. The Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee, at its meeting on 20 September 1999, considered the outcomes of the public consultation and confirmed a “Design Standard” for the Hutt River. Report 99.569 in this Order Paper reflects the sentiments of that meeting and contains the Advisory Committee recommendations.

The “non-structural” investigations for the HRFMP are proceeding to programme for completion by June 2000. These investigations will identify flood hazard areas and land use practices appropriate to minimise the primary or residual impacts of flooding. Other measures such as early warning systems and emergency procedures will also be developed as part of this work package.

Delineation of hazard zones for the River Corridor is nearing completion. Land use practices appropriate for these hazard areas are also being prepared. The target for completion of River Corridor plans is December 1999.

Maps showing flood hazard on the floodplain, for various scenarios, have been prepared. A review of approaches and practices for non-structural measures, adopted in other countries and in other areas of New Zealand, is substantially complete. This review will form a reference when developing non-structural measures appropriate for the Hutt Valley floodplain.

Following the Advisory Committee endorsement of the visions, objectives and options, preparations for consultation on the Environmental Strategy are underway. The basis for consultation will be through:

- targeted interest and user groups
- the wider public (newspaper inserts and newsletters)
- displays at key sites, e.g. libraries, shopping malls
- information posters/displays on the river to ensure actual users are targeted.

The programmed date for completion of consultation is mid December 1999; the outcomes will be formally reported to the Advisory Committee in February 2000.

4. **Asset Management Plans [Malcolm Abernethy]**

The “Western Rivers Asset Management Plan, Draft for LTFS”, which comprises the “generic” base plan and executive summaries for the Hutt, Otaki, Waikanae and Wainuiomata Rivers and the Porirua Stream, is complete and will be presented to this Landcare Committee meeting. The Plan was presented to the General Manager and Chief Financial Officer on 23 September 1999.

The Plan contains the zero based maintenance figures for each of the five rivers in the western region and it identifies a net shortfall of around \$300,000 per annum in the current maintenance budget.

Work is progressing on the development of a Data Management System to aid management of each of the rivers. The Data Management System will be trialled until 30 June and is scheduled to come on line by 1 July 2000.

The final Western Rivers Asset Management Plan will be completed, for approval by Audit NZ and the Landcare Committee, by 30 June 2000. The Plan will include the preliminary outcomes of the LTFS, specifically resolution of the level of service/maintenance gap issue and any capital works approved by Council.

5. **Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment [Phillip Purves/Paul Ollett]**

Excellent progress has been made on the hydraulic modelling component of the Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment. Flood level information and flood extent maps are scheduled for completion by mid October. At that stage, potential damage assessments will also be complete. Remaining components of the Flood Hazard Assessment (river management, erosion, floodplain environment and planning options) will commence from early October.

6. **Planning and Development Services [Phillip Purves]**

The following summarises the formal, written requests for information or advice attended to during July and August 1999:

	<u>July/August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Requests brought forward	16	16
Additional requests received	34	34
Responses provided	30	30
Outstanding requests	18	18

The Flood Protection Group has agreed to become a contributing partner to a project aimed at developing a set of guidelines for floodplain management planning in New Zealand. The project is being managed by Opus International Consultants and has gained support from the Ministry for the Environment by way of a grant from the Sustainable Management Fund (SMF).

The project partners include a cross section of regional councils and territorial local authorities plus a representative from the Office of Emergency Management and Civil Defence. Opus Consultants have to date been reviewing national and international approaches to floodplain management planning and the first of three national workshops will take place in Wellington on 8 October 1999.

7. **Manager's Comment**

With the first quarter of the 1999/2000 financial year nearly complete, we are striving to achieve a "business as usual" work mode. After the frenetic pace of last year, with the HRFMP "Design Standard" and the October 1998 floods, projects now seem to be better placed and are being managed in a more controlled way. There is a healthy combination of policy, investigation and construction work planned for the year.

The current challenge is to assimilate LTFS preparations alongside our current work programme.

BRENDAN PAUL
Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

**Flood Protection
Operations
Manager : Geoff Dick**

Report for Period Ending 24 September 1999

Flood Protection Operations and Maintenance [Geoff Dick]

1. Hutt River

Construction of the Manor Park Golf Course flood repairs is now well underway. This follows the signing of a Heads of Agreement on the 6 September 1999. The Heads of Agreement document sets out in plain English each party's responsibilities for the construction, maintenance, costs and land related matters for the works. Work completed includes shaping of the bank edge and driving of all the debris fence railway irons. Cabling of the fences is underway. 4,000 willows will be planted as soon as the cabling work is complete.

The last remaining timber groyne (circa 1930s) adjacent to Tama Street, Ava was removed in the period. This groyne had largely failed and was tending add to the erosion risk rather than reducing it.

A large amount of reinforcing steel, concrete and bricks was removed from the river channel. This demolition material was eroded from the left bank at Avalon during the October 1998 floods.

2. Hutt River Mouth

Four buoys to mark the extent of the new deposition site, 750 metres off-shore, were placed. Consents Management have subsequently asked that two further buoys be placed. This is now the only item that needs to be completed before deposition can commence.

3. Kapiti Rivers

Construction of a further 100m of rip-rap lining adjacent to the haul road at lower Chrystalls is currently underway. The new works involve the reconstruction of the river berm, and the purchase and placement of 1600 tonnes of rock. The total estimated cost of the work is \$90,000. This work results from the minor flood events in May and September this year which destroyed the old toe protection works consisting of cable trees, basket groynes and willow and poplar plantings. The erosion was threatening the integrity of the haul road, which is also the existing stopbank. Ultimately it is proposed to relocate this stopbank further inland in the property currently owned by Sir Arthur Williams.

The above lower Chrystalls work will be funded from the Stresscrete capital works budget of \$650,000. This is appropriate as the works are clearly identified as being necessary in the Otaki Floodplain Management Plan and are in the same north bank Chrystalls to the bridges reach. However, the priority for which section will be upgraded first has now changed since the December 1998 approval for the work.

Further progress has been made on the Upper Rahui project edge protection works. Trenching of willows in the major retreat area (downstream of the old Lutz stopbank) is now largely complete. Excavation of the trench in the minor retreat area (Woods property, upstream of the old Lutz stopbank) is progressing well. Willow planting in the minor retreat area has commenced.

Delivery of rock rip-rap for the Otaki River, Mangahanene Island edge improvements is underway. A total of 400 tonnes has been delivered to date (2,000 tonnes ordered). The remaining rock will be delivered once the lower Chrystalls works are complete

4. **Watercourses**

A meeting was held with Malcolm and Rachel Philips at their Wakapua Farm property in Otaki, on 10 September. Councillor Chris Turver and John Gilbert also attended. The meeting was in response to a letter received from the Philips complaining that insufficient work was being undertaken to reasonably reduce the flood risk and stop erosion that was occurring. During the October 1998 floods they lost part of an important silage crop. There have been at least two significant floods since which have caused flooding and erosion on this property

The meeting with the Philips traversed a number of issues including the proposed 1999/2000 maintenance programme, delays in getting a resource consent for maintenance works, the level of service provided by the Regional Council, and the flood hazard study proposed for 2005/06. Subsequent to this meeting, an on-site inspection was made, and the proposed maintenance programme was revised. It is anticipated that the resource consent will be granted by the end of October, and the maintenance work will commence immediately afterward. Officers will consider the scope of the intended flood hazard study and opportunities for bringing this forward as part of the LTFS process. A formal letter of response will be sent shortly.

A meeting organised by Roger Bloxham, of Otaki, was also held on 10 September to discuss the Waitohu Stream mouth cutting. A number of Moana Street residents attended. It is clear that some Otaki residents still object to the chosen location for cutting the Waitohu Stream mouth. Mr Bloxham preferred a cut location further to the north. He raised a number of concerns including a loss of beach on the south side of the stream (the Waitohu Stream is an important recreation location for Otaki residents), loss of foredunes to the south and the greater tidal effects of the more direct outlet to the sea. Staff agreed to again review options for managing the Waitohu Stream mouth and to suspend any further work until more consultation was undertaken.

A meeting was also held with Bronwyn Anderson of Te Horo beach. Her section has been flooded a number of times recently due to very high tides in the adjacent Mangaone Stream. The existing informal stopbank along the stream has been eroding over recent years, including part of the road access onto the beach.

Some minor repairs will be undertaken to the section of stopbank immediately adjacent to Ms Anderson's home. The possibility of raising and reinstating the road will be discussed with the Kapiti Coast District Council.

5. **Firth's Building Demolition, Melling**

A contract has been let to T. C. Jurgens & Sons Ltd, Wanganui for the demolition of the former Firth's Buildings at Melling. The accepted tender price of \$26,350 (excluding GST) was substantially under the \$50,000 estimate for the work. The contractor proposes to commence in late October and will be finished by the required 30 November completion date.

The Lower Hutt Fire Station has requested the use of the Firth's Buildings at Melling for a fire exercise. The proposal is to deliberately set fire to one of the buildings and then exercise putting it out. This request has been agreed to in principal (T. C. Jurgens have also given the go ahead) and a date in early October is proposed.

We have also received a request from a rescue dog organisation to carry out a training exercise in the partially demolished buildings. This will involve dogs and their handlers searching for "victims" in the rubble. It is hoped to use the exercise as an opportunity to publicise the Regional Council's emergency management role. Any disruption to the demolition contractor was provided for in the tender documents.

6. **Waitohu Stream Resource Consent**

Preparation of the Waitohu Stream long term consent application is largely complete and on track to be lodged in early October. The application for a coastal permit to maintain the stream mouth at its current location was deleted from the application. A separate application will be lodged for this activity once the options have been reviewed and further consultation with residents undertaken.

7. **Gravel Extraction**

Gravel extraction figures for the year to 30 August 1999 are set out below.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 1999/2000 (cubic metres)		Year 1998/1999 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	8,820	8,720	42,630
	River	Winstones	0	0	2,967
Otaki	River	Winstones	1,120	1,120	15,854
	Upper Rahui	Winstones	11,320	11,320	20,454
Waikanae	River	Winstones	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS			21,260	21,260	81,905

8. **Manager's Comment**

Progress on this years Operations works programme is now building momentum. We are now out of the trout spawning period which will allow work to commence in the river. There will be a lot of activity between now and Christmas to ensure we keep the remaining flood damage repairs, routine maintenance works and the Tracys and Gas Line capital improvements in the Otaki River on programme.

Other projects which we aim to progress in the next quarter is a proposal for improvements to the Otaki Depot, contracting of the reach mowing in the Wellington area, and generating some interest in gravel extraction from the Hutt River. As I said in the last report it will be a very busy year.

Flood Protection Operations staff have shown a keen interest in wearing the new staff uniform developed by Bruce Andrell and his team. It presents a very professional image to the public. It is proposed to shortly finalise and sign off guidelines for the issue of this uniform to my team so that the issue of the uniforms can commence.

GEOFF DICK
Manager, Flood Protection (Operations)

Regional Parks (Strategy & Marketing)

Manager : Susan Edwards

Report for Period Ending 24 September 1999

1. Manager's Comments (Susan Edwards)

Walkways Kilmister Block, Belmont Regional Park

Regional Parks Strategy and Marketing staff met with Hutt City Council staff to discuss the registration of walkways across the Kilmister Block of Belmont Regional Park. We hope that the registration of the walkways will now proceed.

We will keep the Committee informed of developments.

Auckland Regional Council (ARC) Visit

Ross Jackson visited ARC during September to look at work they are doing in the Community Connection area. Ross returned with useful information and ideas to assist with the development of similar programmes and projects in our Regional Parks and Forests.

Filming at Kaitoke Regional Park

Councillors may have seen the episode of *Duggan* on 24 September partly filmed at Kaitoke Regional Park, but set in the Marlborough Sounds. The murder scene was filmed at the Pakuratahi Forks car park. The car park was modified by the addition of soil and temporary small trees. In the scene, an army captain was walking across a 3 rope bridge between two old rimu trees when the ropes were cut and he fell to his death.

Unfortunately we did not receive credits at the end of the programme as required under the filming agreement. However, instead the film company has agreed to provide us with still shots from the programme that we can use during marketing of the Parks and Forests for filming purposes. This is the second time we have not received credits from film companies. Future contracts will contain a penalty clause in case it happens again.

East Harbour Regional Park

We have begun working on access and land rationalisation issues at East Harbour Regional Park. We are currently researching property issues to develop the access options further before discussing the various issues with Hutt City Council and the Department of Conservation.

KiwiWalks Launch

Sport Wellington has contacted us with a suggested date for the Wellington Regional Council KiwiWalks launch. They are looking at a launch on the Hutt River Trail in association with Hutt City Council and Save The Children Fund who are having a River Festival day on 12 February next year. The Festival is to raise awareness and funds (gold coin donation). It will be a celebration of activities along the river and be a family event. I will advise Councillors formally through the Bulletin.

Asset Management Planning

Asset Management Planning has been a focus for the Strategy & Marketing team over the last two years. We have undertaken significant work on the project since my last report, including presentations to:

- Divisional Manager, Landcare
- General Manager and Chief Financial Officer
- Representatives from Audit New Zealand

The culmination of the last year's work is reported separately on this Order Paper.

Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area Access Plan

Last year the Council agreed to restricted opening of the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area. However, the opening was delayed due to the detection of *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* in the raw water in the catchment. The delay was until the commissioning of a new reaction tank at the water treatment plant that would help reduce the level of harmful organisms in the water entering the plant.

The reaction tank is due to be commissioned around December. Therefore, it is appropriate to re-activate the access policy. We are currently working with the Water Group to finalise details of the policy for consideration by the Landcare and Utility Services Committees in November.

2. Resource Management and Planning Issues (Anne Manley, Graham Laws & Ross Jackson)

State Highway Upgrades

Regional Parks staff have continued working on the State Highway 1, 2 & 58 upgrades affecting three of the Council's Regional Parks. This work has involved a significant amount of staff time attending public meetings, site visits, consultants meetings, writing comments on proposals, etc.

Several projects are entering the final design stages. Therefore, it is important that we have input to ensure the designs minimise the effects on the Parks, that public access and main entrances are provided for and compensation is received where appropriate.

Pressure from Motorised Recreational Users

Further to the comments on motorised recreation in my last Manager's report, the Hutt City Council (HCC) has received letters requiring the Council to open up the Hutt River and the legal roads within Belmont Regional Park for use by trail bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles.

The legal roads through Belmont Regional Park are owned by HCC. They are either unformed or are farm tracks used by the Park Ranger or Landcorp for patrolling and land management activities. If these roads are opened it will cause significant problems for Park management. The Management Plan does not allow motorised recreation in the Park as it is incompatible with other Park uses and farming activities. The costs of track maintenance will increase dramatically if motorised recreation is allowed.

The Hutt River is also considered unsuitable for motorised recreation. There are potential impacts on stop banks and river protection works, in addition to the impacts on other river users.

Motorised recreational users are continuing to press for additional areas to legally carry out their recreational pursuit. The only area of public land where they can legally go off-road is the Akatarawa Forest. The Hutt City Council has recently begun enforcing the access ban on the Eastern Hills firebreaks and tracks. This has caused a volatile response from the off-road motorised fraternity.

We will work with the motorised recreation users and HCC officers to work through these latest issues.

Concession Applications

The Council has recently received two new concession applications; one to take motorised recreation tours through the Akatarawa Forest and undertake other corporate team building activities, the second to develop a driver training road track at Kaitoke Regional Park. Both applications are currently being processed.

Whitireia Park Site Visit

A site visit to Whitireia Park was requested at the last Landcare Committee meeting. The Whitireia Park Park Board has offered to host Councillors on the visit. We are currently working with the Board to identify a date for the visit. Due to Councillors and Board members busy schedules, it looks like the visit will occur late in October. We will advise you of the date through the Councillors Bulletin.

Regional Parks (Operations) Department

Manager: Bruce Andrell

Report for Period Ending 24 September 1999

1. Manager's Comments

Walkway Bridges Replaced

The three bridges on the Battle Hill Bush Reserve walk are being replaced. They have reached the end of their useful life and require upgrading to the new standard outlined in the Recreational Trail and Walkway Structures Manual. The construction costs were reduced with the assistance of the Rimutaka Prison workers carrying the large beams and materials into the more inaccessible areas. The work has been scheduled to coincide with the park closure for lambing to minimise disruption to the public.

Conservation Corps Assist Park Management

The Salvation Army Youth Services Conservation Corps spent three weeks working at Battle Hill during August and September. They assisted with releasing the riparian plantings, weed control, trapping mustelids and installing gabion baskets as part of the walkway bridges upgrade. The youths have been enthusiastic and enjoyed learning new skills about working in and with the environment, as well as establishing a good work ethic.

2. Kaitoke Regional Park (Matt Ballantine)

Trespass Notices Issued to Repeat Offenders

Matt is beginning to issue trespass notices to people who repeatedly contravene the Park Bylaws, e.g., reckless use of motor vehicles. Trespass notices discourage unacceptable behaviour on occasions when the Police are not able to assist.

3. Forest Lands (Dean Hearfield)

Volunteers Start Akatarawa Hut Replacement Project

The replacement of the Orange Hut started with the laying of the foundation slab on 4 September 1999. The old hut is used for a meeting place and emergency shelter by recreational users of the Akatarawa Forest. The hut is to be replaced by volunteers organised by the "Friends of the Akatarawa" (formerly known as the Akatarawa Recreational Action Committee). The group has raised sponsorship for the materials and is providing the labour to construct the hut. The project is being co-ordinated by Dean with assistance from the Plantation Forestry department.

Motorised Recreation Increasing

Anecdotal evidence (the number of permits issued, the volume of traffic encountered while patrolling and general signs of wear and tear on the road network) indicate that motorised recreation is on the increase in the Akatarawa Forest. Dean is currently investigating the best option for measuring and recording recreational usage of the Forest. Currently there are no recording mechanisms to assess forest visitation and track use trends.

4. Wainuiomata and Orongorongo Water Collection Areas (Scott Farrell)

Scott recently moved his office into the Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant. This will improve co-ordination and communication between the departments, and contribute some cost efficiencies. We would like to acknowledge the support offered by the Water Group staff.

5. Visitor Services

See attached visitor information data schedule.

BRUCE ANDRELL
Manager, Regional Parks Operations

Natural Forestry Department
Manager : Geoff Cameron
Report for Period Ending 24 September 1999

1. Forest Operations (Robin Blake/Geoff Cameron)

Staff Annual Leave

Robin Blake was on leave for four weeks of the period. Most of that was spent canoeing and fishing in Minnesota and Ontario.

Endangered Species Protection

Despite the efforts to protect individual specimens of *Brachyglottis kirkii* mentioned in my last Report, there has been some more possum browsing. Extra efforts, perhaps involving repellents, will be required to fully protect the young regenerating plants.

East Harbour Pest Control

I made contact with the East Harbour Environmental Association about their mainland island project, part of which is in East Harbour Regional Park. We can assist in a number of ways, particularly planning and analysis, but there may be some on-ground work assistance as well. I see this as a great community connection opportunity, as well as making sure that monitoring work is done to the same protocols region-wide.

2. Catchment Operations (Robin Blake/Geoff Cameron)

Wainuiomata Possum Control Results

The final trap-catch analysis has now been reported by Biosecurity department staff. The residual trap catch (RTC) percentages were 1.1 percent for Wainuiomata and 3 percent for Orongorongo. The analysis of population statistics showed that an estimated 85 percent of the possum population was killed. This was a very pleasing result.

Vegetation Management Contract

We had a meeting with Water Group managers to review last year's contract and re-assess priorities for this year. The main work will be re-measurement of the vegetation assessment plots in the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo catchments, and conducting the forest health survey in all our catchments. We are still discussing the finer points of goat control and how to ensure the best results from a contract.

Slip on Georges Creek

I investigated a major slip in Georges Creek, Wainuiomata catchment, reported by Scott Farrell the Wainuiomata Ranger. Although we can't tell what started that slip, aerial photos show that there have been others in that area. Remedial action will be discussed with Water Group managers.

3. Rural Fire Contract (Geoff Cameron)

WRC Rural Fire District

I continued consultations with other Principal Rural Fire Officers, and made a presentation to the Community Affairs Committee of the Kapiti Coast District Council. Councillor Turver accompanied me on that visit.

A paper with a detailed proposed will be presented to Landcare Committee in this Order Paper.

WRC Fire Plan

To meet legislative and Code of Practice requirements, I reviewed the WRC Rural Fire District Fire Plan, made some improvements and submitted it for peer review through the Wellington Rural Fire Co-ordinating Committee. The Fire Plan was formally approved at the meeting of that Committee on 24 September. A copy will be placed in the Councillors lounge once it has been printed.

Permit Burns

The fire permit for burning windrows on the Craigs Flat subdivision, mentioned in my last Report, caused problems during this quarter. One of the conditions, namely that the fire be lit when no smoke nuisance would affect Upper Hutt City, was not followed and we had to put the fire out. Future burns on that site will be much more tightly controlled, and WRC staff will be on site.

Fire Training

A formalised programme of rural fire training for Parks Operations staff got underway during the period. Fire fighting skills are now assessable for credit under the NZQA framework, and a number of staff are taking the opportunity to have their skills formally recognised. We are also setting up a proper training register.

There will be opportunities for training with DoC staff as well as our volunteer rural fire fighter group, so that people aren't strangers when it comes to a big fire event.

This fire training fits well with the overall asset protection role we will be implementing next year.

Rural Fire Co-ordinating Committee

This Committee, established under the Fire Service Act, serves to co-ordinate rural fire control measures in the Metropolitan Wellington area - in effect the western side of our Region. It carries out some tasks (e.g. fire plan approvals) on behalf of the National Rural Fire Authority. I have chaired this Committee for the last four years, but stood down at the last meeting to allow new blood into the role. Steve Jensen, Wellington City Council's Principal Rural Fire Officer is the new chairman.

Application for Grant Assistance

Each year the National Rural Fire Authority assists rural fire authorities to equip their volunteer forces correctly. They subsidise protective clothing and some other equipment by about fifty percent. I have successfully applied for subsidies for protective clothing and hose for the Hutt Valley Bush Fire Force.

4. Management Activities (Geoff Cameron)

Rimutaka Summit Issues

We are continuing to work with the new power supply company to get the new arrangement underway. The wind turbine will be completed next month.

Vodafone are still finalising lease arrangements with us. A start date for their construction has not been given.

Forest Health Survey

I met with a specialist team from Forest Research to receive a proposal for a new forest health survey system for Council's indigenous forest estate. The new survey will have a scientific and statistical basis that our previous one did not have. It will therefore be repeatable, and comparisons of forest health status from year to year will be possible. We will still be able to request information on new biotic finds and new relationships, as we have received in the past. Ours is the first large-scale contract of this sort being offered by Forest Research.

Asset Management Planning

I have been working with other Landcare Managers to present Stage II of the draft Asset Management Plan. I have done additional work to refine the Environmental Asset Plan the Committee noted last meeting. This topic is the subject of a major presentation to Landcare Committee.