

6. SURFACE WATER LAND DRAINAGE RESOURCES NEEDED TO ADDRESS EXPANDING URBANISATION OF CHRISTCHURCH CITY

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The purpose of this report is to set up a subcommittee comprising members of the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee and Regulatory and Consents Committee to consider resources needed to address the surface water drainage issues outlined in the Council Seminar of the 20 October 2003 and continued on 4 November 2003. The extent and speed of urbanisation in Christchurch has brought pressure on the current resources needed to plan and protect the surface water land drainage system in Christchurch if it is to be treated in a natural manner as envisaged in the Asset Management Strategy.

BACKGROUND

An outcome from the seminar to Councillors was as follows:

- An understanding of the issues and priorities.
- Addressing priorities through the area plan programme.
- Catchment planning and subdivision site treatment.
- What future actions were needed?

The seminar content looked at the relationship between greenfields urban growth and land development activity with the release of large areas of urban zoning without deferred zoning. Also there was the effect of the change in management philosophy as encompassed in the Waterways and Wetlands Asset Management Strategy including the six values approach. Finally there was the inadequate technical information available on which land drainage assumptions were made.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The seminar in conclusion looked at the following actions to be taken which included:

- Further detailed waterway investigations of funding required to area plan process.
- Cost sharing schemes in place to bring in revenue for future works.
- Review the funding stream for planning and investigations work to understand the surface water environment better prior to development of the land.
- Bring Asset Strategy investigations forward.
- In light of resources needs for southwest Christchurch review other priority areas and costs.
- Where the six values approach cannot be readily achieved what other options should be pursued.

NEED FOR SUBCOMMITTEE

The issues in terms of the investment required by the Council are complex and require detailed studies to satisfy Council's resource management objectives and policies. Up front planning and investigations work will require additional funding than currently allowed for in the current financial programme and envisaged in the Asset Management Strategy. Time has not allowed a detailed result between the seminar and the following Committee meeting to present the best information available. A report to the half yearly review is envisaged as a result of the subcommittees deliberations.

To meet this deadline the subcommittee will need to meet prior to Christmas.

Staff

Recommendation: That a subcommittee comprising representatives of the Parks, Gardens and Waterways and Regulatory and Consents Committees be established to investigate the resources needed to meet Council's objectives for surface water land drainage and report back accordingly on the findings.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.