

2. 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 at the Council seminar on 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

Outcomes from the seminar for Councillors were 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, it was acknowledged that there was 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:

- Further detailed waterway investigations of funding required for the 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 forward Asset Strategy investigations.
- In light of the resources needed for southwest Christchurch, review other priority areas and costs.
- Where the six values approach cannot be readily achieved identification of the other options that can be pursued.

NEED FOR SUBCOMMITTEE

The issues in terms of the investment required by the Council are complex and require detailed studies to satisfy the Council's resource management objectives and policies. Up front planning and investigations work will require more funding than is currently allowed for in the current financial programme and envisaged in the Asset Management Strategy. Because of the short gap between the seminar and the following meeting of the Committee, there has been insufficient time to prepare a comprehensive report on this issue. It is envisaged that a full report will be submitted as part of the half yearly review, reflecting the result of the subcommittee's deliberations. To meet this deadline the subcommittee will need to meet prior to Christmas.

- Recommendation:**
1. That a subcommittee comprising two representatives from each of the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee and Regulatory and Consents Committee, be established to investigate the resources needed to meet the Council's objectives for surface water land drainage issues; and that the committees be notified of the subcommittee's recommendations in due course.
 2. That Councillors Sally Buck and Chrissie Williams be the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee representatives on the subcommittee.