

Officer responsible Water Services Manager	Author Ken Couling
Corporate Plan Output: Waterways and Wetlands (Volume 3 Chapter 9.3)	

The purpose of this report is to acquaint the Committee with the papers prepared by Waterways and Wetlands team members and their key partners for the International Conference on Urban Storm Drainage to be held in Sydney, Australia, between 30 August and 3 September 1999.

This conference represents our best opportunity to showcase to the rest of the urban drainage world how we do things in Christchurch. Good attendance at the conference from Europe, North America and Japan is assured. There will be a lot of interest in the Australian and New Zealand approach to urban drainage management because our systems generally separate stormwater from sanitary sewage whereas northern hemisphere systems are generally combined drainage systems. Also the opportunity available in Australia and New Zealand for activities like waterways restoration will be quite an eye opener for many northern hemisphere attendees.

The eight technical papers collated within the document circulated to committee members represent a sample “snapshot in time” of the current activities involved in the sustainable management of Christchurch’s waterways and wetlands. Collectively the papers manifest the broad span of activities involved in managing our waterways and wetlands, the innovative approach taken by the Waterways and Wetlands team and the importance of our partnerships with other stakeholders.

The first paper describes our values-based approach at the strategic planning level. It is followed by a description of the practical application of this approach to aquatic vegetation management. Three papers follow with a common theme of partnership – with waterside residents, Maori and private sector developers respectively. Investigation and design aspects of stormwater disposal by soakage and urban waterway restoration are covered next. The final paper on environmental education for schools highlights our hopes for the future. As the abstract states: “If today’s children learn to appreciate and value water as an important but limited natural resource then there is optimism for its long term sustainable management.”

Chairman’s

Recommendation: That the information be received.