

#### 4. WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

RR 10049

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| Corporate Plan Output: Waterways and Wetlands (vol 3, Ch 9.10) |                               |

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress report on the preparation of a Waterways and Wetlands Asset Management Strategy for presentation to the Committee in September 1999. It outlines a new approach to management of the natural component of the waterways and wetlands system which divides the city into areas defined by topography, nature of the system and land use and develops asset management plans and projects specific to those areas.

#### CONTEXT

##### Concept

An alternative approach to the management of the natural component of Christchurch's land drainage system was developed as part of the Council-wide asset management planning in 1996. It was a values-based approach that satisfied not only the requirements of the Local Government Amendment Act 1996 but also the resource management objectives of the City Plan. In its conceptual form the strategy provides for the sustainable management of waterways and wetlands by a planned investment in protection, restoration and maintenance over a 40-year period.

##### Work to Date

This approach was accepted by the Council in 1996 and funding made available to support the work on the understanding that more time would be required to identify actual projects in detail and over the long term. Accordingly, a draft asset management plan was presented to the City Services Committee in September 1998 but approval was delayed pending more work and information on some aspects, particularly land purchase policies. It is now intended to represent the asset management plan to the Parks and Recreation Committee in September this year.

##### Current Strategy Preparation

Work is now underway that will progress the strategy to the stage where specific projects are identified on the 10-year capital expenditure programme. To achieve this Christchurch District has been broken down into 14 project areas defined by topography, nature of the system and land use, for example, the Port Hills, Marshlands and river corridors. The project area approach has several advantages with regard to monitoring progress on the implementation of the strategy or assessing the effects of changes to the strategy. They have the potential to be a catalyst for integration with Parks and City Streets to provide an overall "vision" for a neighbourhood.

The programme for development of the strategy includes:

- Presentation and feedback from key stakeholders – early July
- Seminars and feedback from Community Boards on project area plans within their wards – mid to late July
- Presentation of completed strategy to Parks and Recreation Committee in September

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

This will occur progressively over a defined time frame (approximately 40 years). As an investment in sustainability in the longer term that avoids more costly limited solutions, progress monitoring will be an important aspect.

#### **SUMMARY**

In summary, the project aims to achieve the sustainable management of the city's waterways and associated resources. Water Services will endeavour to more efficiently allocate resources to natural and utility waterways and at the same time more fully realise the six values for a significantly lower long-term cost.

It is suggested a special meeting be set to consider the results of this project in light of the significant future ramifications for the city and to allow sufficient time to convey concepts and examples to the committee. The intention is to obtain Council approval for the strategy in time to influence the preparation of the 2000/01 Annual Plan and Budget.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the above information be received.
  2. That a special meeting of the Committee be held to consider the results of this project as a part of the Waterways and Wetlands Natural Asset Management Strategy; the meeting to be held between the ordinary September Parks and Recreation Committee meeting (8 September) and the full Council meeting of 23 September 1999.

#### **Chairman's**

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.