

STAFF REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Dennis Bush-king, Environment & Planning Manager

REFERENCE: S611

SUBJECT: **MANAGER'S REPORT - REPORT EP09/10/07** - Report prepared for meeting of 8 October 2009

1. URBAN DESIGN PANEL

During September expressions of interest were received from prospective members of the proposed joint urban design panel. The three member panel which will serve Nelson City and Tasman District councils is expected to be launched in November. The Councils' Urban Design Champions and Environment & Planning Chairpersons will select the panel members. The panel will provide a preapplication service on urban design matters which is voluntary to attend and free of charge.

2. TASMAN NELSON ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2009

Entries have now closed for the Tasman Nelson Environment Awards 2009. Interest has been high, and with good media coverage. Numbers are expected to up from last year.

Judging will take place over the next month with the Awards ceremony scheduled for Friday, 20 November at the iconic Woollaston Estates.

3. CONSERVATION WEEK

This year the theme for Conservation Week (14 to 23 September) was "Kia Mahia te Mahi – Get Involved". Based on the very successful Seaweed event held on Rabbit Island in 2008, a number of organisations – Department of Conservation, Nelson City Council, Brook Waimarama, Fish and Game, Waimāori, Ornithological Society, Iwi, Tasman District Council and others – hosted around 540 Year 5 – 8 Tasman and Nelson students at the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary in a round-robin of six forest, stream and conservation activities over three days. Tasman Schools (including a bus from Golden Bay) were well represented.

The event was very well received and enjoyed positive feedback from students, teachers and parents. Students were encouraged to "get involved" in conservation activities in their schools and communities. The participating agencies have made a commitment to organise one such large event every year for Tasman and Nelson students.

4. SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOP

Staff have organised a Sediment and Erosion Control Workshop to bring contractors and consultants up to date with Council's expectations regarding appropriate management of earthworks. This is a two day workshop for contractors and consultants and will combine with NCC to get the regional coverage. The first day is field based to make use of the Edi Works initiatives on the Ruby Bay Bypass, with the second looking into the production of site plans. To date to number of enrolments has meant Council has now had to organise an additional second and a third workshop to cater for the numbers involved. It is very pleasing to see the number and range of companies enrolling.

5. THE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS ADVISOR

In response to the need for better and more efficient business practices, the position of Sustainable Business Advisor has been created in the Nelson and Tasman region.

Administered by the Nelson Regional EDA and funded by the Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council, Nelson Tourism, and the Ministry of the Environment, the SBA is available to all businesses to provide free, impartial and non-binding advice to assist with the reduction in use of energy, minimisation of waste streams and water usage.

David Francis has taken up the role as Sustainable Business Advisor. He is a Chemical and Materials Engineer with a Diploma in Geothermal Energy Technology. He has a strong interest in renewable energy technologies and has worked in the Nelson region for 14 years. In addition to his engineering interests, David started and has operated a successful tourism business during this time. He has also tutored at the NMIT School of Tourism.

6. UPDATE 32

Change 10 (Richmond West) and Change 16 (Cultural Heritage Sites) was advertised on 26 September. Both have been in progress for awhile and it is pleasing to see them notified.

7. HYDROLOGY

Rainfall-runoff modeling for flood prediction has been carried out by a consultancy for the Takaka and the Motueka Rivers, and is occurring for the Waimea at present. Staff are calibrating the model for the Riwaka catchment, and then the system to allow the models to interface with the TDC telemetry software will be built.

So far eight river flow sites have been upgraded with new loggers and radio systems out of a total of 22, and it is expected that 17 will be completed by Christmas.

8. NRB CONSENTS SURVEY

This covers building, dogs, food/liquor and resource consents. Dogs out performs the other areas in most of the responses. Generally staff are seen as helpful and courteous and generally most are satisfied with the service they receive with a marked increase in satisfaction in the resource consent area.

Except for dogs there is some dissatisfaction with our charges and the time taken to process consents. Additionally it appears that we could do better with the published materials we supply explaining the processes, however on a positive note most of the applicants know what is covered by the consent and what is expected of them. The summary tables at attached to this report.

9. THANK YOU

I would like to acknowledge the Rob Smith's efforts in standing in for me during the last six weeks.

10. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be received.



Dennis Bush-King
Environment and Planning Manager