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Report to: Motueka Community Board
Meeting Date: 14 February 2012
Report Author: David Ogilvie
Subject: **Update from Land and Water Forum – RMCB12-02-14**

Purpose

To provide the Community Board with an update from the Land and water Forum.

Comment

The scope of the work to be carried out by the Forum in its second project will contribute to the forward work programme of the Government's Fresh Start for Fresh Water by considering the specific areas of freshwater reform that still need reconciling between key stakeholders in four areas – the setting of limits, decision-making structures for limit-setting, managing to limits (including land use), and allocation – as follows:

- a) What is needed to effectively implement the limit-setting approach to water management (currently reflected in the National Policy Statement), including consideration of what central government needs to do versus what local government needs to do, the role and responsibilities of water users, and nature and scope of limit-setting tools.
- b) What efficient and improved decision-making structures for limit-setting might look like, including provision for stakeholder involvement, specific provisions for iwi/Maori participation in limit-setting processes and decisions at catchment, regional and national levels and how those limit-setting processes interact with broader resource management processes.
- c) Methods and strategies of achieving limits and targets through managing the effects of land use on water.
- d) How to manage within limits by developing more effective methods and strategies for allocating water, trading and/or transfer systems.

The Forum will also provide advice to Ministers on a possible National Land and Water Strategy, including:

- Why such a strategy is important.
- The key elements and considerations of such a strategy.

Effectively, the second phase of the Forum's work will lead to the elaboration of two successive reports:

- In March 2012, we will report to the Government on a general framework for setting limits, including what is needed, whether at national or at regional level, for setting limits, including recommendations for effective and collaborative decision-making processes involving all stakeholders.
- In September 2012, we will report to the Government on the methods and strategies that are needed in order to achieve, and manage over time, those limits, in terms of water allocation and land use. We will also make a case for the importance of a National Land and Water Strategy and give an outline of its key elements and considerations.

Recommendation:

That the Motueka Community Board receives the Update from the Land and Water Forum Report (RMCB12-02-14).