

Report No.	18-129
<b>Information Only - No Decision Required</b>	

**SCIENCE & INNOVATION PROGRESS REPORT**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to introduce Members of Council’s Environment Committee, the Science and Innovation Progress report for the period 1 May to 30 June 2018.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee recommends that Council:

- a. receives the information contained in Report No. 18-129 and Annex.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 3.1. There is no financial impact associated with recommendations in this paper.

**4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.1. The Science and Innovation work programme at Horizons is reported on publicly to the Environment Committee regularly throughout the year and also communicated via various forums and methods.

**5. SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS RISK IMPACT**

- 5.1. There is no immediate financial impact associated with this report.

**6. SUMMARY**

- 6.1. The Science and Innovation team will farewell team member Miriam Niessen, who is heading off to travel and work in Canada, in October. Miriam has been a valued member of the Biomonitoring Team for the past two years, recently taking over the co-ordination of the periphyton monitoring programme. We wish both Miriam and her partner Berni all the very best for their next big adventure.
- 6.2. Recruitment is now underway for a Research Associate to assist with the delivery of the biomonitoring programme.
- 6.3. Our Science Operational Plan 2018-19 is presented as a separate agenda item and sets out the planned work programme for this financial year. Along with delivery of core monitoring, research projects, and policy and implementation support, communication of our science will be a focus for the team. This includes the development of a strategy for science communication, and the launch of our State of Environment 2018 report prior to Christmas.
- 6.4. Highlights for 2017-18 included: delivery of core monitoring programmes; initiation of regional work programmes for stormwater and drinking water; regional reporting on water resource availability, state and trends of groundwater and surface water quality, groundwater levels, macroinvertebrates and periphyton, analysis of potential periphyton drivers and an assessment of regional swimability; fluvial surveying of the Manawatū Catchment; sediment transport investigations in the Oroua Catchment; a review of the

biodiversity programme and implementation of recommended changes; the release of new LAWA website modules; and delivery of around \$176,000 of Envirolink-funded advice to support Horizon's science and implementation programmes.

- 6.5. Annual Plan performance targets were met and the programme, as set out in the Science Operational Plan for 2017-18, was largely delivered as designed. There was some adjustment to project timeframes for reporting, to allow staff to respond to emerging issues such as the Levin Depot fire and PFAS investigations which diverted staff time for periods of time throughout the latter half of the reporting year.
- 6.6. June 2018 was largely dedicated to the completion of programmed work, peer review of external technical work, and end of year reporting. Throughout the month, the team dedicated time to finalising the Science Operational Plan for 2018-19. With much of the technical work now complete, drafting of the State of Environment 2018 report is now a key focus from July 2018.
- 6.7. An investigation into the detection of PFAS in the Bulls public water supply is now underway. Initial sampling of bores in the vicinity of the Bulls water supply was completed in early July 2018, with results currently pending.
- 6.8. The Science and Innovation Activity Report accompanying this Progress Report provides an annual summary of the science work programme for 2017-18, as well as covering outputs for the month of June 2018.

## 7. SIGNIFICANCE

- 7.1. This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Abby Matthews

**SCIENCE & INNOVATION MANAGER**

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**GROUP MANAGER NATURAL RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIPS**

## ANNEXES

- A Science & Innovation progress report