



caring about you & your environment

Report 01.687

13 September 2001

File: E/6/18/3

[Report 2001.Env01.687:JB:mem]

Report to Environment Committee
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters which have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Department Managers' and Divisional Accountant's reports follow.

3. Resource Management Law Association Conference

This conference is being held in Wellington from 4-7 October 2001. This year's theme is "looking beyond the RMA to contemporary environmental law issues for our country and our planet". A programme is **attached**.

The Committee should decide on political representation at this conference. It has been the Council's past practice to nominate two Councillors to attend.

3. Biodiversity Workshops

A notice about the forthcoming Ministry for the Environment Workshop on *A National Policy Statement on Biodiversity* was included in a recent Councillors' Information Bulletin. It is to be held in Masterton on Monday 17 September 2001.

These workshops are being held around the country. They are generally technical in nature and intended to be a briefing for officers. For this reason, it is not appropriate that there is any formal Council political representation at this Workshop. Cr

Buchanan has been approached by MfE to chair the workshop. As we were aware that some Councillors have a strong interest in the subject, we thought it appropriate that everyone was given the opportunity to attend.

4. **End of the Triennium**

As this is the last meeting of the Environment Committee in this triennium, I'd like to thank the Committee members for their input and support over the last three years.

It has been a very exciting triennium for the Council's environmental work. Councillors have had the confidence and vision to effect enormous changes, especially with the move to environmental education and active environmental care. One only has to see the number and variety of environmental care projects that are taking place all over the Region to realise that we are having a positive effect on our Region's environment. Staff are really enjoying working more closely with the community and feel that their efforts are contributing to a better Region.

The Council's move to devote more resources to the area was a courageous one. I hope that we have managed to fulfil your expectations and look forward to making even more progress in next triennium.

Thank you all for making the Environment Committee so productive and enjoyable.

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attach: (1)

Resource Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

September 2001

1. Take Care – Community Environmental Care Programme (Nigel Clarke)

Applications for funding under the Take Care programme have been called for and are open until 24 September 2001. We expect to be able to support only a limited number of applications as this year's funding is not as large as last years. However, this will depend on the size of the applications we receive. Interest thus far has been running at about the same level as last year.

2. Care Group Water Quality Monitoring (Nigel Clarke)

As the existing care groups expand their activities and become more involved with their streams, the number of people keen to learn about the life in the stream and the quality of the water increases. Nigel has run two training workshops recently to teach people simple ways of measuring stream health. The methods being used are the Clean Streams method, and the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK). John Holmes is slowly developing a monitoring network on the Kaiwharawhara Stream which includes care group members and other interested people. We are looking at ways of making the information collected available to others (such as posting it on the Council's web site) and of incorporating it into our regular monitoring activities.

3. Take Charge and Take Action

Progress with the business and school education programmes is updated separately in this Order Paper.

4. Riparian Management (Kirsten Forsyth, Don Bell and others)

The Strategy is currently out for consultation and Kirsten has been receiving some very positive comments. Planting has continued at the Kakariki Stream and planning is underway for further planting this year on this and the other two pilot streams, the Karori and the Enaki. We will soon identify a fourth pilot area in the Wairarapa to complete the areas where we will trial various riparian planting techniques (as promised in the Long Term Financial Strategy).

Graham Sevicke-Jones and Summer Warr are developing a monitoring protocol for these areas so we can see what changes emerge over time.

5. **Wellington Wet and Wild (Tim Porteous; Geoff Skene)**

Wellington Wet and Wild is a bush and streams regeneration plan and policy document for Wellington City. The City Council has given us the opportunity to make comment on the plan and this has been done. The document is a very significant step forward for the City's streams and biodiversity and we welcome its ecosystem based approach. I have accepted the invitation to be part of the Environmental Reference Group assisting the City Council with the development and implementation of the plan.

6. **Staffing Matters**

Unfortunately for the Environment Co-ordination Department Romae Duns has returned to Consents Management to take up the position of Account Manager. I have already advertised for a replacement for Romae. In the interim, Romae is continuing to manage the Council's input to the Wellington Regional Environmental Association.

Resource Policy Department Report Wayne Hastie Manager

September 2001

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans (Murray McLea)

Progress is being made on withdrawal of the Transitional Regional Plan and regional plan changes. Draft changes have been circulated to staff and a first round of consultation is complete. There will be a further round of consultation following revisions of the draft. Changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan that relate to protection of flood mitigation structures will be subject to a legal opinion. The changes will go to the Policy and Finance Committee on 27 September for approval for external consultation.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Silt Guidelines (Paul Denton)

A detailed review of Auckland Regional Council's (ARC) silt control guidelines has been completed and a work programme developed to prepare our own guidelines based on the ARC document. A meeting has been arranged with a silt control consultant to discuss what, if any, changes to the ARC document might be appropriate for the Wellington Region.

2.2 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray McLea)

Planning for this year's work programme is well advanced. Work will include a survey of whitebait spawning sites in the Wairarapa and fish surveys at seventy sites in the Region. We will also be looking at river structures in the western Region.

2.3 Marine protection (Paul Denton)

As a first step in determining our priorities for the year, we have organised a meeting in mid September with a number of key agencies undertaking work on marine ecosystems. These agencies are the Ministry for the Environment, the Maritime Safety Authority and the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere. Glen Lauder will also assist us to help identify work in progress. With many players in this area it is important that we are aware of what work has been completed or is planned by other agencies. This will enable us to tailor our work to ensure that we maximise the benefits to the Council.

2.4 **On-site Sewage (Kirsten Forsyth)**

The Council hosted a one-day workshop about on-site wastewater systems and regulations on Monday 20 August. We had 44 people attend, including Regional Council staff from Wellington and Masterton, staff from all territorial authorities in the Region, staff from the Ministry for the Environment, and consultants from throughout the Region.

The purpose of the workshop was to examine the provisions of the relatively new New Zealand Standard on on-site sewage treatment, in the context of current practices, and to discuss current technologies in on-site systems. The workshop also provided a great networking opportunity for people working in the field of on-site sewage systems in the Wellington Region.

2.5 **Wetland Recovery Programme (Melanie Dixon)**

The first Wetland Ecosystem Group meeting was held this month. This cross-divisional Group is charged with:

- Over viewing the development of the Draft Wetland Strategy
- Agreeing on Performance Indicators for Wetlands for the Annual Plan

In addition the group decided to have meetings on site where possible to look at wetland issues and to use the group to provide a forum for support and information sharing across various council projects.

The next meeting is in September and is to be held at Battle Hill Regional Park.

3. **Iwi Matters (Keriana Wilcox)**

A successful technical workshop on gravel management was held at Papawai marae, Greytown. Council staff outlined our current management practices and workshop participants visited gravel extraction sites on the Waiohine River.

A successful workshop was held with Iwi to discuss the Council's submission on the Local Government Act review. Copies of the final submission adopted by the Council have been sent to the Iwi.

Following discussions with Iwi, staff prepared a draft contract on administration funding for comment by Iwi. Feedback so far has been positive, and one contract has been signed with Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc. A further contract with Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui is in the process of being signed. Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa accepted the contract, but formal adoption has been put on hold while some administration matters relating to the Iwi are resolved.

In terms of projects, we have agreements with Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga for projects involving the preparation of an Iwi Environmental Plan and a Tikanga Māori report on the Ōtaki River respectively.

4. **Hazards (Roz Groves)**

The results of the study of the hazards associated with the transport and storage of non-petroleum hazardous substances were presented to the Emergency Management Officers' meeting on 14 August. The presentation was well received. A copy of the full report will be sent to the officers and an executive summary to a variety of other parties (including territorial authority planning/policy staff and dangerous goods inspectors). The report will also be posted onto the Council web site. If there is sufficient interest, a presentation will be arranged.

Work is progressing on this year's investigation of meteorological hazards and climate change impacts. We are discussing the study with a consultant and are hoping to include Mike Harkness from Resource Investigations on their project team. In terms of follow-up tsunami work, this is still being considered.

As reported to the last meeting, in conjunction with the Emergency Management Department we are preparing a number of Fact Sheets on hazards in the Region. Initially ten Fact Sheets will be produced and they will be available in printed form and on the Councils web site.

A hazard research "newsletter" has been drafted to send to various people and organisations, updating them on what the Council is doing and what reports have been completed. Eighty contacts have been identified so far, and it is proposed that an update be sent out every three months.

5. **CentrePort Environmental Consultative Committee (Wayne Hastie)**

The CentrePort Environmental Consultative Committee met on 30 August. Following formalities, John Holmes gave the Committee a presentation on the Kaiwharawhara Stream enhancement project. This was followed with an update on noise issues at Seaview Wharf from Hutt City Council and Silver Fern Shipping (formerly Coastal Tankers Limited). All parties are working actively to minimise any adverse effects of noise on local residents. CentrePort informed the Committee that it had taken measures to conserve electricity, and that it was preparing a new code of practice for wharf washing activities.

Resource Investigations Department Report John Sherriff, Manager

September 2001

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood Warning

Since the last meeting one severe weather bulletin was received:

14 August	Strong wind warning, Wellington
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The following alarms were received and responded to:

20 July	Water level, Porirua Stream
29 July	Heavy rainfall, Warwicks
15 August	Heavy rainfall, Wainui Reservoir and Orongorongo Swamp
24 August	Heavy rainfall Transmission Lines Water level Porirua Stream
25 August	Heavy rainfall, McIntosh

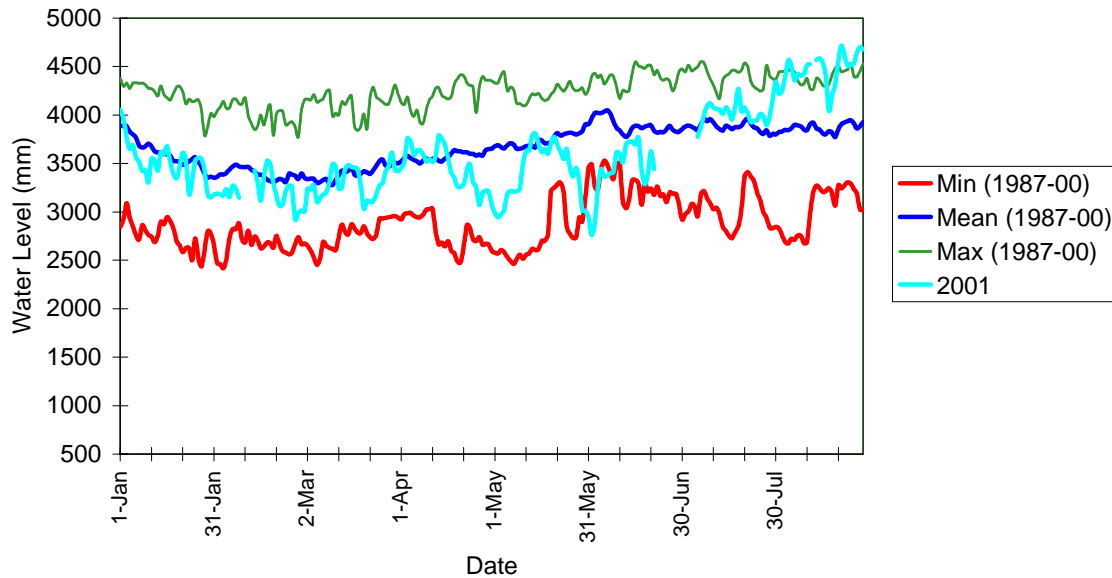
2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater Levels

Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer

Artesian pressure measured at McEwan Park has climbed remarkably since the beginning of July and has reached record high values. Low barometric pressure and high spring tides have caused some monitoring bores to overflow. The missing record at the end of June was caused by works undertaken to perforate the bore casing to allow a continuous electrical conductivity meter to be installed. This meter is now on line and connected to our telemetry system. Once a baseline pattern is established we will define a conductivity alarm level to warn of potential seawater intrusion.

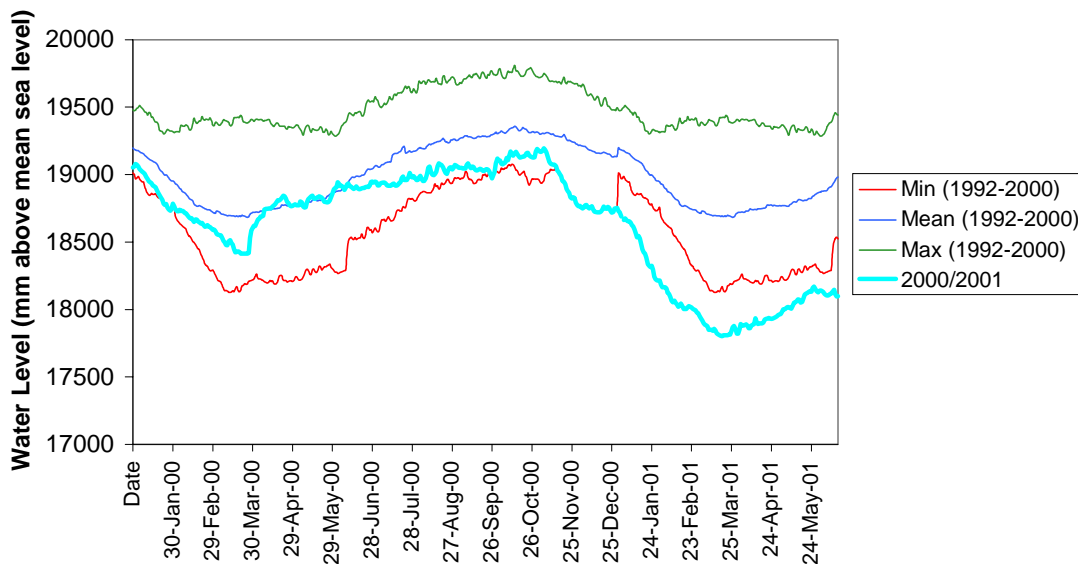
Water Level at McEwan Park



Kapiti Coast

Groundwater levels at most Kapiti monitoring sites still remain at below average to well below average following the extended dry period earlier this year. However, all bores are showing a pattern of recovery.

Hautere Plain at Centrepoint



2.2 Rainfall and River Flows

After some considerable time rainfall totals across the Region finally started to reach average levels in July and August. During July rainfall was at average levels in Wellington and the Kapiti Coast, below average in the Tararua Ranges, and slightly above average in the Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata. Of the monitored rivers, only the

Wainuiomata and Orongorongo catchments recorded above average flows. All others were below the normal flow expected in July.

During August rainfall was average to above average across most of the Region. Most river flows were around average with the exception of the Waitohu and Porirua Streams.

The following Figures summarise the state of the river flows during July and August.

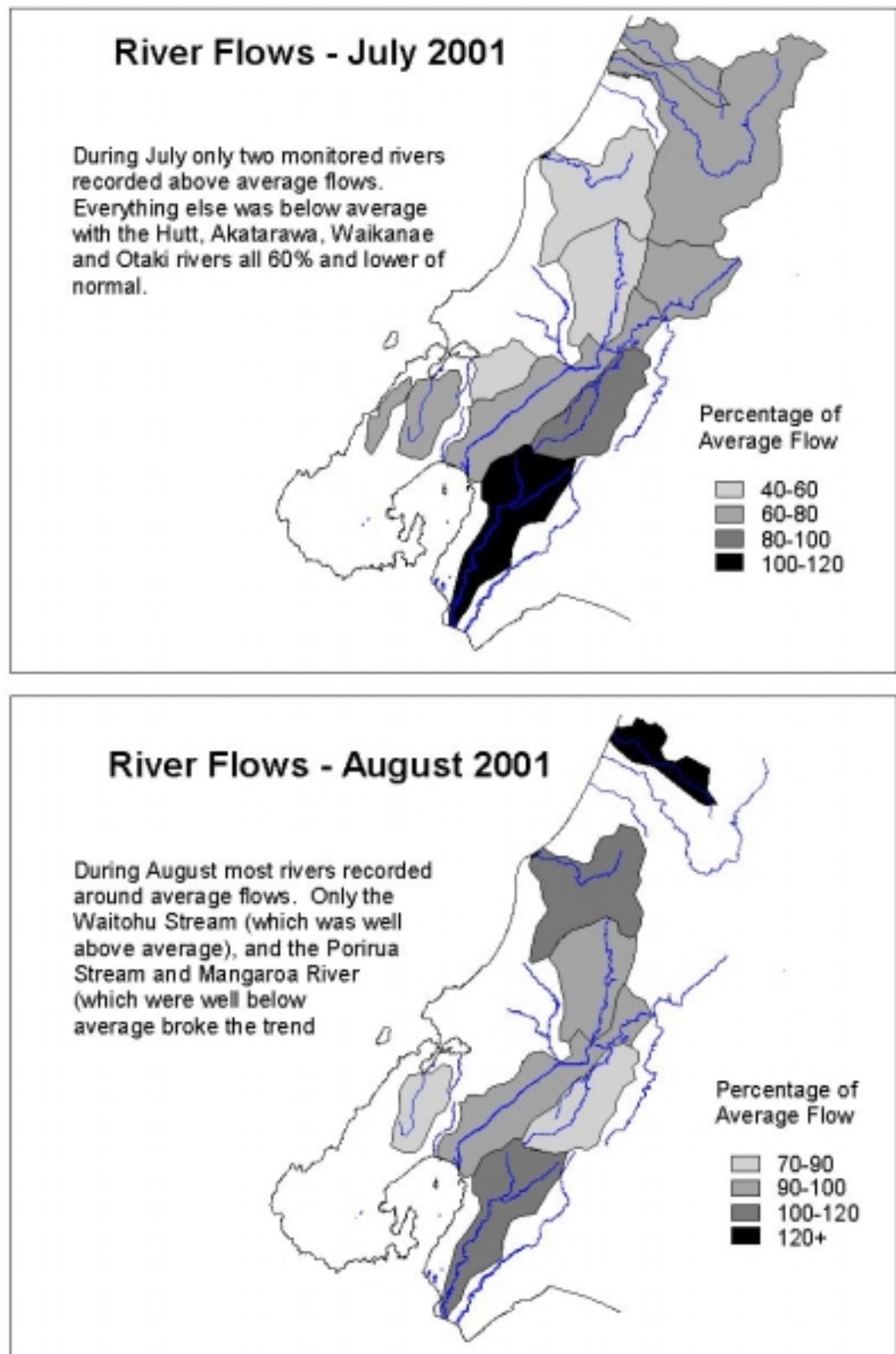


Figure X. Average Monthly Flows By Catchment

2.3 Air Quality Monitoring

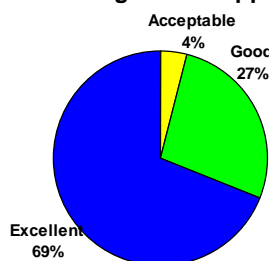
2.3.1 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

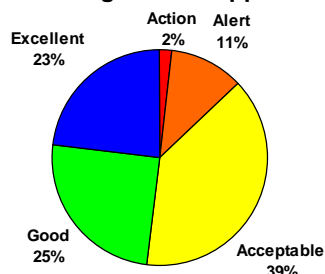
Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.
Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

Results for the Past Six Weeks at Upper Hutt

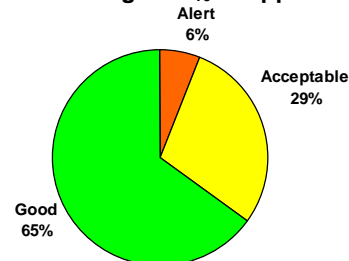
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt



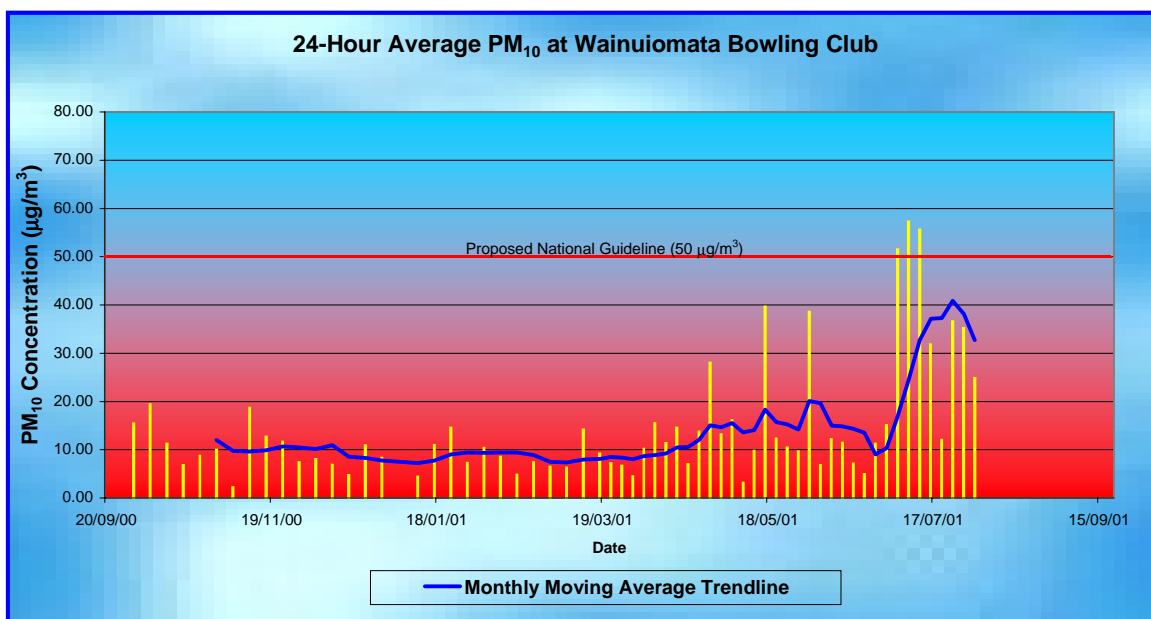
24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt



There has only been one exceedence of the ambient air quality guidelines at Upper Hutt since the last six weekly report. Several cold frosty nights caused air pollution which resulted in the exceedence of the Regional air quality guideline for nitrogen dioxide. The Regional guideline is designed to protect sensitive ecosystems. There were no exceedences of the air quality guidelines for the protection of human health.

Results to Date for Fine Dust (PM₁₀) Monitoring at Wainuiomata

Monitoring of PM₁₀ at Wainuiomata Bowling Club has been carried out since September 2000. This is the first time air quality monitoring has ever been undertaken in Wainuiomata. The results show that the highest concentrations of particulate matter occur during winter. This is due to a combination of cold calm conditions and the use of domestic fires for heating. There have been three exceedences of the proposed National Guideline for particulate matter. The exceedences occurred during the cold snap at the beginning of July 2001. Similar exceedences were recorded during the same period at Upper Hutt.



PM₁₀ Monitoring Results for Wainuiomata

24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Wainuiomata



Comparison of Monitoring Results for Wainuiomata with Air Quality Categories

3. Resource Quality

3.1 Pollution and Non-compliance Complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

3.2 Agent Orange Investigation

The report to the last Committee generated a great deal of media interest. As a consequence we have had several more people contact us with information about the

disposal of waste materials from the ICI Chemicals Site in Seaview. Staff are continuing to piece together and substantiate this information.

Sampling done by Hutt City Council at the Wingate Landfill showed no evidence of 2,4-D or 2,5-T at this site. Hutt City Council have also taken samples at Wingate to test for dioxins. We have undertaken similar sampling at the old Cottles Pit. These results are not expected for another 4-5 weeks.

Consents Management Department Report Paula Bullock, Manager

September 2001

1. Consent Statistics

We have received 39 consents to date this year. This compares with 59 consents received for the same period last year.

2. Appeals

A tentative date of 9 December 2001 has been set to hear the boatshed appeals.

3. Compliance

3.1 Abatement Notices

No abatement notices were issued since the last Committee meeting.

3.2 Infringement Notices

Six infringement notices have been issued since the last Committee meeting. Three of the infringement notices were issued to Roadex (formerly MKL and CEH) for offensive odour beyond their boundary. The other three infringement notices were issued to Gary Morgan, a director of Roadex, for the same incidents. We are continuing our enforcement action against this company (see below).

3.3 Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

Roadex (formerly MKL)

Roadex have indicated they are going to install carbon filters to mitigate the effects of odour. Due to the lack of confidence we have in Roadex to carry out installation of the carbon filters, we are continuing to pursue an interim enforcement order from the Environment Court. The interim enforcement order, if endorsed by the court, will require Roadex to; operate only in certain wind conditions, install the carbon filters, and notify us when they are testing the carbon filters in northerly wind conditions.

Burrell Demolition

Burrell Demolition has filed an appeal with the Court of Appeal. We are looking at a tentative court date of October.

Horokiwi Quarries

We are seeking to prosecute Horokiwi Quarries for an unauthorised discharge of silt in to the Horokiwi Stream and Wellington Harbour. The charges were laid on 24 August 2001.

4. **Other**

4.1 **Staffing**

I am pleased to announce I have appointed Romae Duns as Account Manager. Romae is no stranger to the Consents Management Department having worked in the department previously for four years. I am sure her past experiences will be invaluable to the Department.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Lambton Harbour Management ¹	Consents associated with the development of the Taranaki Street Wharf and Lagoon area	09/04/99	21/05/99	77		04/08/99 05/08/99 06/08/99	Councillor Buchanan, Tony Town (Commissioner)	06/09/99	Granted with conditions now under appeal
GNB Technologies	Discharge to air of contaminants arising from a battery recycling facility	01/03/00	19/04/00	20	10/05/00	Hearing scheduled for 24 September 2001	Councillors Buchanan, McDavitt and Allen.		
M Goddard	Overnight stays in boatshed	11/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
B and S Pidford	Overnight stays in boatshed	31/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
M Ambrose	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
M Ambrose	Consents associated with the construction of a new boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
L Ramsey	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
									appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
A and N Johns	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
O and K Martin	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	162	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
R and P Lewis	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
C Feast	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined. Under appeal. Tentative court date 9 Dec 2001.
New Zealand Galvanising	Discharge to air for contaminants from a hot dip galvanising process and associated activities.	24/07/00	29/08/00	4	08/09/00	Results of ambient air monitoring with submitters for their consideration			
Transit ³	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01-06/07/01 and reconvened 02/08/01	Commissioners Tobin, Howie and Fowler		

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Transit ³	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01-06/07/01 and reconvened 02/08/01	Commissioners Tobin, Howie and Fowler		
Kapiti Coast District Council ⁴	Consents associated with taking water from the Otaki River for supplementary public water supply.	04/12/00	12/03/01	115	22/5/01	16/07/01-20/06/01 and reconvened 02/08/01	Commissioners Foster, Aburn and Te Akapikirangi Arthur		
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
Wellington City Council	Renewal of discharge of milliscreened effluent to the coast during wet weather events, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant	20/12/00	05/03/01	9		Hearing to be held prior to 12/10/01			
Transit ²	Upgrade of State Highway 2 from Dowse Drive to Petone	30/03/01	29/05/01	100+		Hearing now scheduled for 1/10/01 to 5/10/01			
Transit ⁴	Realignment and safety improvements to McKays Crossing	20/07/01	Submissions close 6/9/01						

1 These applications were heard jointly with Wellington City Council

2 These application will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council

3 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council

4 These applications will be jointly heard with Kapiti Coast District Council

Additions or alterations to the table have been shown in bold

Harbours Department Report

Mike Pryce, Manager

September 2001

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution Response

Four oil pollution reports were received.

3. Departmental Activities

A meeting of the Harbour Masters/Harbour Managers Special Interest Group (HMSIG) was chaired in Wellington on 16 August. This annual meeting enables harbour management issues concerning Regional Councils to be discussed with the Maritime Safety Authority and other interested parties.

4. *Sarfaq* Hulk

Late on the evening of 29 July 2001, a report was received that the derelict 41-metre steel-hulled fishing vessel *Sarfaq* was sinking alongside Miramar Wharf. The vessel was found to be close to foundering, and the Harbourmaster, Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood and Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder worked with the fire service overnight to place pumps on board to pump out the vessel to prevent her sinking. A sinking would have caused some oil pollution from the unknown quantity of oil still on board the hulk. It was early the next morning (30 July 2001) before the vessel was stabilised.

Later the same day (30 July 2001) the owning company, Carp Investments Ltd., was formally placed into liquidation and the vessel passed to the Official Assignee.

To reduce the oil pollution risk of the hulk sinking, it was arranged with contractors to remove the bulk of visible oil from the vessel on 1 August 2001.

In view of the deplorable condition of the vessel and its legal status, Council, at its Special Meeting on 2 August 2001, declared the vessel to be a derelict and gave the owner 14 days to remove it.

A Dumping Permit was obtained from MSA on 3 August 2001 giving approval for the Wellington Regional Council to sink the vessel in 41-48 South, 175-01 East (about 25 nautical miles SSE from Baring Head), in some 1,700 metres of water.

By 10 August 2001 the hulk of *Sarfaq* had become legally ownerless for all practical purposes.

On 13 August 2001 it was arranged with contractors United Environmental Ltd. to remove all floatable material from the hulk. During the next few weeks Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood and Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder carefully checked the hulk. More oil discovered in other tanks was also removed.

Extensive preparations were made for her scuttling, including cutting flooding and air holes in bulkheads, securing doors and hatches in the open position, and water-ballasting of some small intact tanks for stability purposes.

The filthy engine room was given a final hosing-down with an approved mixture of oil dispersant and water to minimise the risks of any oil residues remaining. This was all pumped ashore.

All preparation work was completed by 22 August 2001, and suitable weather was awaited.

On 28 August 2001 the vessel was towed out of Wellington harbour by the tug *Kupe*. After a tow of 37 nautical miles, the hulk was scuttled in the position approved by the Maritime Safety Authority.

The hulk took one hour and nine minutes to sink from the time that the sea-valves were opened, and flooded in a stable and upright condition throughout. The hulk finally sank stern-first at 1754 hours in position 41-47.5 South, 174-59.6 East

The preparation work had been thorough, and no oil or debris escaped from the hulk when it sank, although some oil dispersant was taken out on *Kupe* as a contingency.

All mooring lines from *Sarfaq* were placed ashore on Miramar Wharf when the hulk was towed away. On the following day, these mooring lines were moved down the wharf and used to secure *James Cook* in a better manner whilst that vessel's future was decided.

The cost of the external contractors used for the preparation and completion of the *Sarfaq* scuttling operation is approximately \$20,000. Not included is the cost of the considerable staff time expended on this operation during the previous month.

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

September 2001

1. Project Phoenix

We have met with all the "Phoenix" role-players and have given presentations to the five Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committees in the region, the Wellington and Wairarapa Lifelines Groups and the Ministry of Health. We have also commenced the "second round" meetings with these participants to sort out any problems that they may experience in determining their key needs to respond effectively in a major emergency. We are working very closely with the Auckland region regarding the management of external supply of resources for the critical response functions. To assist the participants we have developed templates to identify gaps in their preparedness for Urban Search and Rescue, Treatment and Movement of the Injured and the Provision of Safe Water.

We have asked the participants to answer the following questions:

1. Can you use buildings without engineering inspection?
Can you operate from a damaged building?
What gear/records do you need from your unsafe building if forced to relocate?
Do you know where else you could operate from?
Can you extract vehicles/equipment from buildings/yards?
Take into account the impact on people from the event; - up to 40% of your staff could be initially unavailable because of trauma and other disruptions.
2. Evaluate the impact on your organisation of loss of normal telecommunications and data communications and the overloading of working emergency communications.
3. What plans do you have in place to carry out reconnaissance?
4. Evaluate how you would cope without electricity other than that provided by your own generator (s).
5. What impact will disruption to access to a large number of local roads and intercity routes (at least 3 to 4 days) have?
6. Are you self-sufficient for food and water and for how long?
7. How will you support your staff families?
8. How completely can your local organisation fulfil your emergency response role in the major earthquake scenario?
9. In what emergency response activities will you be stretched/overwhelmed?

10. What additional resources regarding staff, equipment, buildings and material will you need to support your agency's local emergency response?
11. How will your organisation assess needs for additional resources to support and sustain response activities?
12. Who/how do you expect to contact for additional resources? How resilient is this point of contact? Do you need alternatives?
13. Where will you need additional resources to be staged?
14. What support will you need from the local civil defence organisation to support and sustain your local emergency response activities over an extended period?

2. **Provision of Safe Water**

In a major emergency (earthquake) there will be an urgent need for at least 7.5 million litres of safe water a day for the cities of Upper Hutt (37,000 residents), Lower Hutt (95,000 residents), Porirua (47,000 residents), Kapiti Coast (39,000 residents) and Wellington (159,000 residents). The most effective way of delivering the volume of water required to the cities would be by using the existing pipelines. The treatment plant is vulnerable (proximity to the fault line) as are the main pipelines running alongside and crossing the Wellington Fault (at Silverstream and Estuary bridges). A study of the pipelines has revealed that up to 23 breaks on the main pipe can be expected. Few tankers or tanks are available, there are no massive storage facilities near the cities (except at Haywards) and the Hutt River valley aquifer is at possible risk because of ground movement and salt-water contamination. It would also be difficult to consider evacuating people because of water shortages.

The supply of water to Wellington City will be a high priority. The Army will be able to assist with water treatment but its early accessibility to the City will be inhibited until the Coast road is reconstructed with a graded surface. As this will take some time to construct additional water treatment units, storage and transport capability needs to be secured pre-event.

Water Solutions New Zealand, an Auckland-based company, has developed a water treatment unit capable of delivering 100,000 litres of safe water per unit per day. The Filterzone Ozone Sterilising system offers an effective water treatment solution to a wide range of applications. It combines proven and environmentally safe technology in a robust, automated and self-contained modular unit. Filterzone removes bacteria, viruses, parasites and chemicals and routinely delivers water of quality that exceeds the 1995 New Zealand Drinking Water Standards. Emergency Managers of the region have been involved with the development of the prototype of the water treatment unit. We are still investigating ways of obtaining these units in an emergency.

3. **Communications**

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced. We have requested our communications contractor to investigate some other means of communications (satellite, packet, etc.) as well.

4. Activities

4.1 Project Phoenix meetings and workshops

On the dates of 19, 25 and 30 July 2001 and 2, 7, 13, 15, 17, 20, 23, 27 and 29 August 2001 we participated in several meetings and workshops. We gave presentations on Urban Search and Rescue, Treatment and Movement of the Injured and the Provision of Safe Water to the following groups:

- National USAR Working Group (chaired by Linda Angus) - 19 July 2001
- New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineers - 25 July 2001
- Ministry of Health - 30 July 2001
- Capital Coast Health (the new Capital Coast District Health Board) - 30 July 2001
- TLA's Emergency Managers and water asset managers - 7, 14, 21, and 29 August 2001
- WRC Harbours - 23 July 2001
- Ministry for Civil Defence Emergency Management - 18, 26 July 2001 and 13, 27 and 30 August 2001
- Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committees (KCDC-19 July and 23 August 2001, Porirua-30 July 2001, Hutt Valley-7 August 2001, Wairarapa-15 August 2001)
- Wellington and Wairarapa Engineering Lifelines Groups
- We attended the Emergency Managers' meeting at Kapiti Coast District Council on 14 August 2001. At this meeting we discussed topics such as Phoenix, training, publicity, rural fires, hazards and emergency management planning.

4.2 Priority Response Agreement

On 23 July 2001 we met with Jozsef Bognar to discuss a "Priority Response Agreement" for our building in Wakefield Street. The two principal objectives of such an agreement are:

- ensuring the availability of designated engineers who are familiar with our facilities; and
- minimising their response time by defining in advance the specific actions they are to undertake.

There is always a strong demand for experienced earthquake engineers and related technical personnel to assist immediately after a significant earthquake. One of the most critical functions that experienced engineers will carry out immediately after an earthquake is establishing whether or not those buildings with essential operational functions are safe to be re-occupied. Associated with this technical function is assuring the operators (occupants) that the buildings are safe to occupy.

The outcome of these discussions will be made available to you as soon as possible.

4.3 **Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee Meetings**

We attended the Kapiti Coast (19 July 2001) and the Porirua (30 July 2001) Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee meetings. Apart from Phoenix, we also discussed the issues regarding the Paraparaumu Golf tournament (with Tiger Woods) in January 2002. Between 30-50,000 people are expected in Paraparaumu during that week. Difficulties with traffic, food poisoning, sewage and portaloos, air traffic, injuries, and sabotage may be experienced.

4.4 **Rural Fire**

We attended the Wellington Region Rural Fire Committee meeting in Wellington on 16 August 2001 and discussed the preparations for the next fire season, fire planning, training, incident management teams and publicity.

4.5 **Regional Council's Emergency Managers' Meeting**

The Regional Council's Emergency Managers' meeting, hosted by Taranaki Regional Council, took place in New Plymouth on 30 August 2001. Main topics of discussion were the new CDEM Bill, CDEMG Planning and strategies and Project Phoenix.

5. **General**

5.1 **Earthquake Report**

Since the last report, 13 earthquakes bigger than 3.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in the country. The following Earthquake Reports for the Wellington Region (and reports of earthquakes felt in Wellington) were received from IGNS.

[2001 August 21](#) - 420 km north-east of Gisborne (7.0)

[2001 August 9](#) - 30 km west of Wellington (4.3)

[2001 August 5](#) - 140 km south-east of Castlepoint (3.9)

[2001 August 5](#) - 10 km south-east of Masterton (3.9)

5.2 **Special Weather Bulletins**

Since the previous report, seven Special Weather Bulletins (SWBs) were received on 14 and 15 August 2001, namely, for strong wind (4) and heavy snow (3). The necessary warnings were sent out and no problems were experienced.

Richard Waddy. Divisional Accountant

Financial Position : 30 June 2001

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the year ended 30 June 2001. These numbers are an update of the interim results presented at the previous meeting, and remain subject to confirmation by audit.

Support Departments' costs have been adjusted and any previous over or undercharge neutralised. The effect of this has been to decrease the "Other Revenue" line by \$33,000 and to reduce the "Direct Expenditure" line by the same amount.

Overall, there has been no change to the financial result.

Environment Division
Summary Income Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2001

	Full Year			
	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Forecast</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	6,851. 6	6,851.6	--	6,851.6
Other Revenue	1,934. 0	1,913.8	20.2 F	1,989.3
Total Revenue	8,785. 6	8,765.4	20.2 F	8,840.9
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	7,831. 9	7,801.4	30.5 U	7,636.0
Indirect Expenditure	844.8	863.7	18.9 F	825.8
Total Operating Expenditure	8,676. 7	8,665.1	11.6 U	8,461.8
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	108.9	100.3	8.6 F	379.1

2. **Operating Surplus**

The Division's finances are sound. As a number of significant projects were completed in the last quarter, the Division has come in very close to budget.

At year end an operating surplus was produced of \$109,000 against a budgeted surplus of \$100,000.

3. **Revenue**

Total Revenue at \$8,785,000 was \$20,000 above our budget target of \$8,765,000. The increased revenue is largely because of a number of successful enforcement prosecution actions. The most significant was Anglian Water International's unauthorised discharge of sewage from their sludge dewatering plant in November last year. The Company made a donation of \$20,000 towards improving the Owhiro Bay environment.

4. **Total Expenditure**

The Division finds itself in an unusual position with total expenditure of \$8,677,000 which is some \$12,000 above budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were under budget by \$84,000. The under-spend was caused by staff movements and has remained at this level for most of the year.
- Material costs were some \$165,000 over budget because of the following unbudgeted expenditure:
 - Structural alterations to Level 3 to accommodate additional staff (\$35,000).
 - The Take Charge database was developed (\$25,000) – this item was brought forward from 2001/2.
 - The shallow groundwater investigation, Kapiti (\$16,000).
 - Revised Harbour Bylaws printed and advertised (\$11,000).
 - Telemetry site in the Orongorongo catchment (\$13,000).
 - Hydrology and telemetry upgrades (\$18,000).
 - Aerial photography and orthophoto imagery (\$35,000) – most of these costs were recovered from Wairarapa Division.
- External Contractors and Consultants were \$99,000 under budget. The level of expenditure on iwi projects expenditure increased slightly during June, but despite this expenditure remains significantly behind budget.

The under-spend has been offset to some extent by the unsuccessful joint Valley Plaza appeal with UHCC (\$57,000). In addition, as work on the Waiwhetu stream investigation progressed more quickly than anticipated, a further \$20,000 was assigned to this work. Further, because of staff shortages, consultants undertook the Porirua stream investigation (\$12,000). We also contributed to the Information to Motivation conference (\$18,000).

- Internal costs were \$34,000 ahead of budget. Part of the increase is from the joint purchase of the Agribase database with the Wairarapa (\$22,000). The database shows clearly the productive use of land in detail for the Region and provides a tool to model different environmental effects. This is especially important for riparian management for which a Council strategy was completed this year.

5. Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure was slightly under budget by \$20,000 (including proceeds from disposals). This is because we got more for the disposal of some assets (vehicles) than anticipated. Also, a number of smaller items have been expensed rather than capitalised.