

Environment Co-ordination Department Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

November 2002

1. Trees for Survival (Nigel Clarke)

A new school has signed up for Trees for Survival in Masterton. Cornwall Street School will supply plants to, and help with the planting, for the new care group working on the Henley wetlands in Masterton. This is a good outcome because two schools have pulled out of the programme in the last year and Rotary Clubs seem to be finding it hard to support their partner schools. Nigel has been making an effort to involve a range of new people and organisations in the programme in an effort to re-vitalise it and cope with the workload. Further meetings will be held this month to explore these possibilities.

2. Regional Plant Guide (John Holmes)

Sales of the plant guide continue with 350 selling around Labour weekend. Total sales for the 2001-02 year were 700 copies. Since the Guide was first published at Labour weekend 1999, 8,300 copies have been sold, and several thousand more distributed to groups and individuals.

3. Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)

Stage Two of the planting and amenity improvements at the mouth of the stream has been completed. Despite being somewhat hard to get to, this stream mouth is well used by fishers, walkers, local residents, truck drivers and people waiting to drive on to the inter-island ferry. A sign to tell users and visitors about the whole Kaiwharawhara Stream project is being designed and will be erected soon. The cost of stage two was shared between the Council and the Port Company. Tranzrail is contributing to the signage.

4. Take Action (Jo Campbell; Richard Morgan; Jo Fagan; Eleanor Phillips; Susan Hutchinson-Daniel)

Take Action is fully booked for 2003. There is a waiting list and schools are still asking to enrol. A number of schools have been enquiring about 2004. Generally we encourage those who cannot find a place to undertake the self-guided version of the programme. With a little training from the Action Crew, this is not a difficult task but many teachers feel they don't have the knowledge needed and find the action project part of the programme hard to manage.

This term, Raumati South Primary School has completed the trail and the students are now working on their action projects. The trail was held on the Wharemaukau Stream at Paraparaumu, where the re-vegetation efforts of the Kaitawa Forest and Bird group (also a Council care group) proved a useful teaching tool, and at the Wainui Stream in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Students from Maungauraki school are exploring their local streams in the week of the 11th -15th November, and will undertake action projects after that. Unfortunately our third school for this final term withdrew due to other commitments. Waiora Montessori School (Naenae) staff have trained to do the programme self-guided. This has given us some time to progress the initial phases of developing the second programme. This is really just looking at the range of possibilities for such a programme. We will bring our recommendations back to the Committee for a decision on where to go next.

5. Take Care (Nigel Clarke et al.)

Council staff have met with all of the new groups being supported this year and are working out how best to meet their group's aims and expectations. We have also been talking to care group members to identify their training needs as part of our effort to better support these volunteers. As usual, a number of training courses will be offered through the remainder of the year.

A full report on the care groups can be found elsewhere in this Order Paper.

6. Regional Heritage Role (John Holmes)

Councillors may recall that one of the RPS implementation projects that commenced last financial year is the consideration of the need for a regional plan for heritage matters. This project is still underway and we expect to bring a report back to the Committee at the next meeting. A workshop has been held with interested parties on heritage management in the Region and there will be a further meeting in December. A paper has been prepared outlining roles by the Historic Places Trust and this will be developed further at that meeting.

Resource Policy Department Report

Nicola Shorten, Manager

October 2002

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans (Murray McLea and Nicola Shorten)

Proposed Regional Plan Changes were publicly notified on 9 February 2002. The Proposed Changes include withdrawal of the Transitional Regional Plan, changes to bore rules on the Kapiti Coast, and other small changes to all the Regional Plans except the Regional Coastal Plan.

Hearings for the proposed plan changes will be on the 18 and 19 November 2002.

We will be hosting a Ministry for the Environment Aquaculture Road Show event on 9 December 2002. This will be a presentation and workshops designed to inform Councillors, Council Staff and key stakeholders about the aquaculture reforms. The Ministry now tell us it is unlikely that work on the Resource Management (Aquaculture) Amendment Bill will be completed until mid-December.

Coastal occupation charges were the subject of a regional coastal planners meeting this month. Councils are trying to get a nationally consistent methodology.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Marine Biodiversity (Paul Denton)

A public lecture about marine biodiversity and the community is scheduled for Thursday 14 November. The evening is the first of a series of three lectures to be held at Te Papa. Speakers include Dr Rob Murdoch (Director of Research, NIWA), Victor Anderlini (Island Bay Marine Education Centre), Chris Howe (Conservation Director, WWF), Don Richards (Project Beach Clean Up) and Ray Ahipene Mercer (penguin conservation).

The lecture is a means of contacting interested groups and individuals for further involvement in the project. Between the Te Papa events, there will be some smaller-group work with specific communities of interest, and some learning-by-doing work to discover what would best fulfil the community's interest in the marine environment.

The project web site is now live, and can be found at ww.wrc.govt.nz/em/harstud.htm. The metadata base is ready to accept data our aim is to document existing information, which can be used; in conjunction with a user needs analysis, to identify information gaps.

A consultant has been engaged to do a scoping study for : Attachment 1 to Report 02.743
 also looking at how decisions are made by the different org Page 4 of 22
 for marine management, and whether this process could t

2.2 Wetland Action Plan (Melanie Dixon)

An Iwi technical workshop was held on 13 November 2002. This was held at the Raukawa Marae and gave Iwi the opportunity to input into the Wetland Action Plan.

2.3 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray)

Work has continued on Point, Click, Fish, a model that predicts the likelihood of fish presence in every river and stream in the Region. The model is being developed by Greater Wellington and Massey University for use by Greater Wellington. Murray presented the model to the annual Limnological Society conference this month.

We are currently working on linking the model to other relevant information about fish. The work will be useful for the resource consent and regional planning processes and state of the environment reporting. It could also be used for educational and public awareness programmes.

2.4 Other

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the committee.

A submission was made on the "Draft Guidelines for the Safe Application of Biosolids to Land in New Zealand". This document provides guidance and effects based information for industry and regional councils that can be used for the consents process and the development of regional rules.

The Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines, Riparian Management Strategy and a number of brochures are awaiting the outcome of the branding process before they can be printed and distributed.

3. Iwi matters (Keriana Wilcox)

The review of the administration funding contracts was approved at the last meeting of Ara Tahi. The contracts for this year have been sent to each Iwi group for signing.

An Iwi Technical Workshop on Wetlands was held at the Raukawa Marae. This included presentations and a discussion about wetlands and a site visit to the Waiorongomai Wetland.

The next Councillor training will be held on 4 December 2002. This will be hosted by Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai at Waikanae.

4. **Reporting on the State of the Environment**

The state of the environment annual summary is the subject of a separate report to the committee.

5. **Hazards (Rylee Pettersson)**

Natural Hazards Awareness Week ran from 7 to 11 October this year. Activities for the week included:

- Hazard awareness posters were displayed in all buses and trains;
- Hazard awareness postcards were handed out at the train station;
- Hazard awareness pamphlets were sent to businesses;
- Rylee attended a WEMO business breakfast and school teachers breakfast where Greater Wellington had a stand and distributed information.

Meetings have been held with all territorial authorities as part of a stakeholder needs analysis. The purpose of this project is to find out whether the data we collect and supply to the territorial authorities and other parties is useful, and how it can be improved or made more relevant. The next stage of this process will be to hold discussions with utility companies and other groups (e.g. emergency service, consulting engineers etc).

Resource Investigations Department Report John Sherriff, Manager

November 2002

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood Warning

The Resource Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the western part of the Wellington Region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the Region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre. When specified rainfall intensities or river levels are reached, the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

Since the last meeting of the Committee alarms was received and responded to:

11 October 2002	Rainfall: Kapakapanui
12 October 2002	Rainfall: Kapakapanui, Warwicks, Taungata. River level: Kaitoke, Otaki, Birchville
16 October 2002	Rainfall: Transmission Lines, Oriwa
18 October 2002	Rainfall: McIntosh
20 October 2002	Rainfall: Oriwa

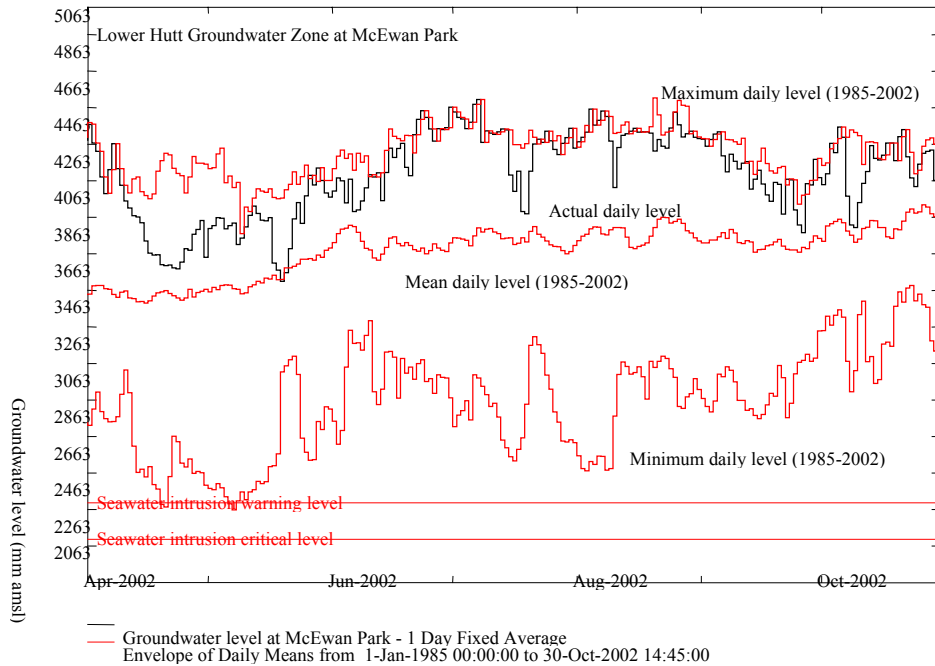
2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater Levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western Region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

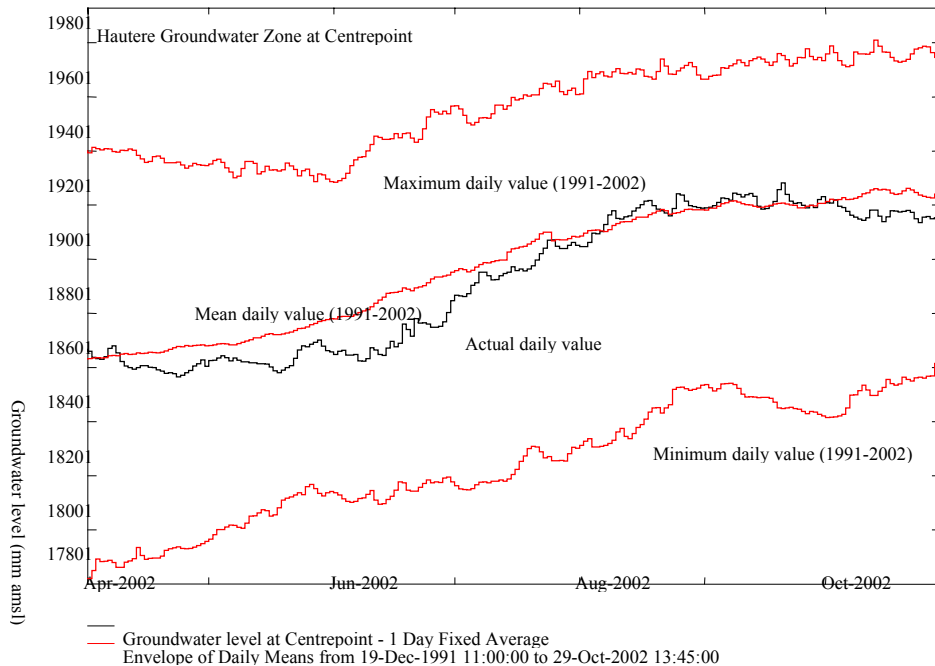
The following graphs present a comparison between water levels recorded this year and historical summary data for the McEwan Park and Hautere Plains sites.

Lower Hutt Groundwater Zone – Upper Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer



Artesian pressure measured at our McEwan Park monitoring bore on the Petone foreshore has remained close to maximum recorded values throughout the winter.

Kapiti Coast



Our groundwater level record from our Centrepoint monitoring site on the Hautere Plain shows that rainfall recharged aquifers have been at average levels over the winter period. River recharged aquifers on the coast have also been at average to above average levels since April.

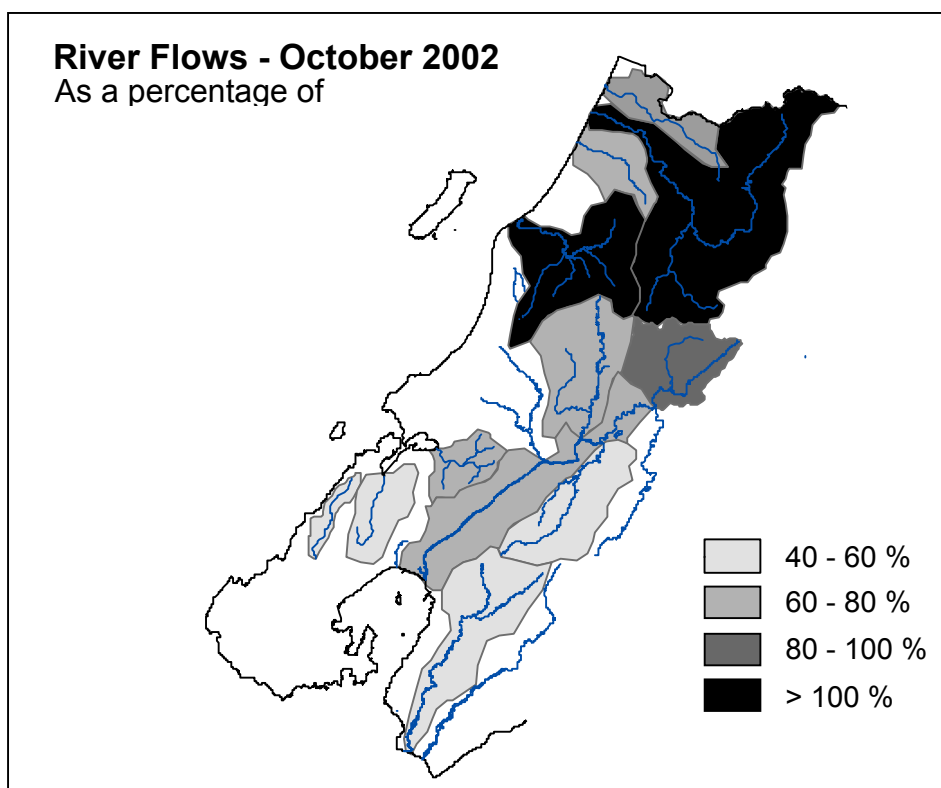
2.2. Rainfall and River Flows

A series of north-westerly and westerly fronts have dominated the Region's weather pattern over the past month. These have often been punctuated by brisk and short-lived southerlies. Gale force winds have been experienced on a number of occasions. The predominance of weather from the west has resulted in the highest rainfalls occurring in the Tararua Ranges.

Nearly half a metre of rain fell in the high parts of the Tararua Ranges over October, yet this was still only 80% of the expected average. All other areas received 70% or less of normal rainfall. Wellington City received only around 30% percent of its average rainfall.

The Waikanae and Otaki rivers were the only monitored waterways to have above average flows for October – both recorded about 130% of normal flows. The Wainuiomata and Hutt rivers recorded 60% of their average flow. The Porirua and Makara catchments had very low flows of 38% and 31% respectively, an effect of the low rainfall in Wellington.

The forecast for the coming month is for the current conditions to continue and rainfall totals to be below average to about normal.



2.3 Air Quality Monitoring

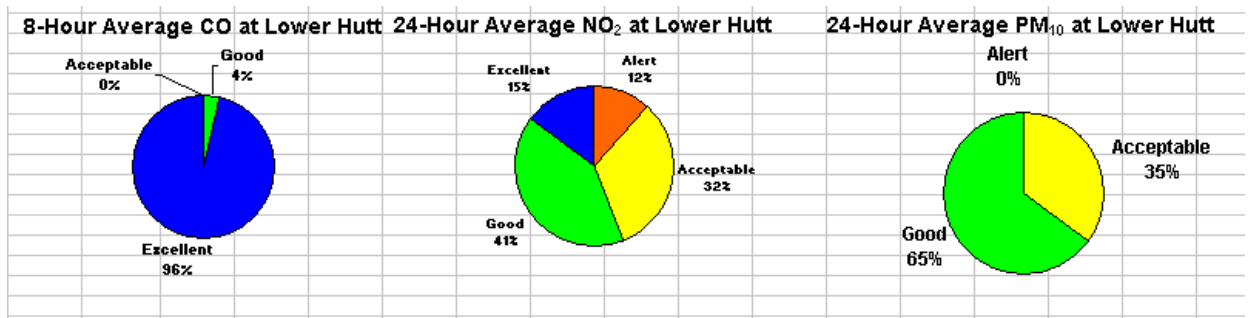
2.3.1 *Ambient Air Quality Monitoring*

We currently monitor ambient air quality at two sites (Lower Hutt Reserve) and Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station). **Attachment 1 to Report 02.743**
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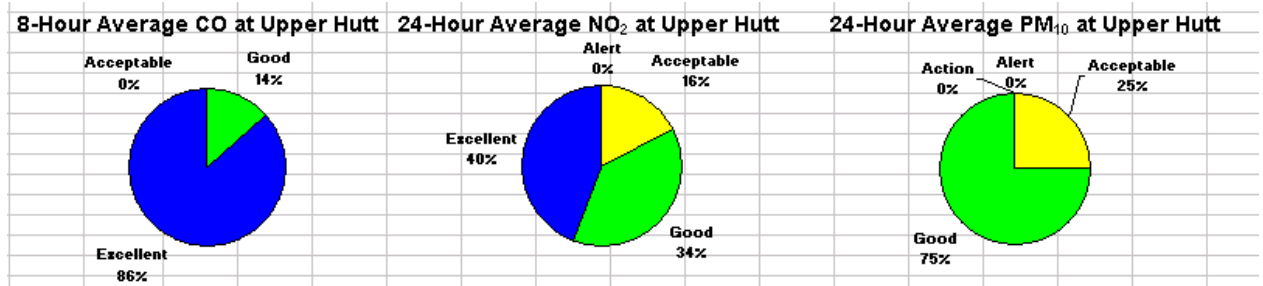
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

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 Lower Hutt



Results for the Past Six Weeks at Lower Hutt



3. Pollution Control

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 **Unwanted Agrichemical Collection**

No chemicals were collected during October. A closing date for registrations was set at 31 October. This encouraged a few more people to register but the response rate is still disappointing. A final round of collections will take place early next year.

4. **Staff**

Perry Davy, our Air Quality Scientist, is in Beijing attending the United Nations sponsored meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's air quality project: *"Isotopic and Related Techniques to Assess Air Pollution"*.

Over the past few years the Council has been working on an air pollution source apportionment project with GNS which is part of this international project.

The trip was paid for by the United Nations.

Consents Management Department Report Paula Hammond, Manager

November 2002

1. Consent Statistics

In the period to 30 October 2002 we received 105 consents. This compares with 117 consents received for the same period last year.

All consents have been processed within statutory time frames.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is attached.

2. Appeals

We are still waiting to hear from all the State Highway appellants as to whether they are continuing to proceed with appeals against WRC consents.

A consent order for the sinking of the F69 Frigate has been agreed to by all parties and is now waiting for sign off from the Environment Court.

Further mediation for the Western Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled for 16 December.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

We have begun proactive monitoring of several sites that have a past history of producing odour at this time of year. As the monitoring has only been underway for a short amount of time, it is a little too early to gain meaningful results. We will report to the Committee in the New Year once we have more information.

3.2 Abatement Notices

We have not issued any abatement notices since the last committee meeting.

The abatement notice issued in September to Rushes Restaurant has been partially complied with. We are working through our various options to ensure we obtain full compliance.

The abatement notice issued to Sealed Air (NZ) Ltd in September was complied with.

3.3 **Infringement Notices**

We have issued two infringement notices since the last committee meeting.

A notice was issued to New Zealand Fish Products Limited for an offensive odour beyond their boundary.

The other notice was issued to Hutt City Council for an overflow from the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Waiwhetu Stream.

3.4 **Prosecution and Enforcement Orders**

We have not initiated any further prosecutions or enforcement orders.

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
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	No hearing required. Report to E Committee 28/11/02			
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Highway 2 and 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99	N/A	27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – one appeal received
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Commissioners Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – one appeal received
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	17/05/01	8/10/01 9/10/01	Ian Buchanan Ian Stewart	26/10/01	Granted, one appeal – mediation held 27 June
Transit ²	Upgrade of State Highway 2 from Dowse Drive to Petone.	30/03/01	29/05/01	100+		1/10/01 – 9/10/01	Helen Tobin, Richard Fowler, Barry Butcher		Granted – three appeals received
Transit ³	Ventnor Drive Interchange.	31/7/01	11/06/02	Apx. 3 on regional issues	N/A	02/08/02	Irvine Yardley, Liz Mellish	23/08/02	No appeals received
Steamship Wharf Limited ⁴	Relocation of Greta Point Tavern to Queens Wharf.	11/07/02	22/08/02	25		23/09/02 and 26/09/02	Irvine Yardley Miria Pomare	15/10/02	Two appeals received

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
BP Oil NZ Ltd	To change the use of an existing pipeline by resting it on petroleum product instead of seawater between shipments.	20/7/01	16/10/01	17		29/10/02	Ian Buchanan, Glen Evans, Jack Rikihana	Decision due to be released by 27/11/02	
Sink F69 Charitable Trust	To create an artificial reef by sinking the former HMNZS Wellington.	3/10/01	3/12/01	72		25/02/2002 and reconvened 6/3/02	Ian Buchanan, Miria Pomare, Irvine Yardley	27/3/02	Granted, two appeals received Mediation held 30/07/02
Nuplex Environmental	Discharge to air from operation of a liquid and hazardous waste processing plant.	15/4/02	28/5/02	18		10/09/02	Ian Buchanan, Miria Pomare, Irvine Yardley	04/10/02	No appeals received
Kapiti Coast District Council	To vary condition of consent to allow water to be taken from Waikanae River when flow falls below 750l/s.	16/10/02	25/11/02						
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02							
Flood Protection	To use diquat in the Waiwhetu Stream to control aquatic weeds.	25/10/02	10/12/02						
NZ Fish Products Ltd	Renewal of application for a discharge to air.	01/11/02							

- 1 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council
- 3 These applications will be heard jointly with the Kapiti Coast District Council
- 4 These applications will be heard jointly with the Wellington City Council

Harbours Department Report Mike Pryce, Manager

November 2002

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

All navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution Response

- Four reports of oil spills were investigated. Only one spill required any clean-up action.
- On 2 October, Harbours Department Staff conducted the annual oil spill response equipment check and stock-take of disperant and sorbents.
- Two WRC staff members went to Nelson for a Maritime Safety Authority "Field Operators" re-validation course in oil spill response.
- On 11 October, Harbours Department received a request from the Maritime Safety Authority in Bluff, for details of trained oil pollution response staff who could be available to assist an oil spill response if the grounding of the bulk carrier *Tai Ping* at Bluff required it. Some Council trained oil pollution response staff were then in a state of "standby" over the week, until the threat of pollution from this vessel ceased. The ship grounded at Bluff on 8 October and was refloated on 17 October with no oil pollution.
- On 6 November, Harbours Department held a meeting of our Regional Oil Spill Support Group. This is comprised of agencies and companies who could be involved in assisting with our Tier 2 oil spill response.

3. Departmental Activities

On 8 October, the Deputy Harbourmaster attended the Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee meeting.

Harbour Ranger Grant Nalder attended a Police Search and Rescue Co-ordination Committee meeting.

During the month the Deputy Harbourmaster and both Harbour Rangers attended a driving course and obtained a Class 2 Drivers Licence. This permits them to legally tow the WRC Emergency Caravan with a four-wheel drive vehicle when the combined weight is likely to exceed 3,500 kgs.

Harbour Ranger Greg Meikle completed a training course and obtained his coastguard Coastal Skipper marine qualification.

General

The annual “Skyshow” fireworks display was held on 5 November, with fireworks fired from a barge moored in the middle of Lambton Harbour. Strong northerly winds reduced the number of people watching from recreational craft, but those that were present were exceptionally well behaved, and no safety incidents were reported.

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

November 2002

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill was passed in Parliament on 8 October 2002.

The commencement date set for the Act is 1 December 2002. *A separate report has been prepared in this regard.*

It requires that the Wellington Regional Council by 1 June 2003, unites with the territorial authorities in our region to establish the CDEMG.

Building on the work that was done over the past four years, we now have to establish the Group and within two years of establishment, produce a CDEM Plan. Public consultation will be required throughout the process to ensure hazards and risks are dealt with to a level the community accepts.

Since the passing of the Bill on 8 October, the department has had several meetings (ten in total) with the emergency managers in the region (Wellington, Hutt, Porirua, and Wairarapa) and with the Ministry of CDEM to discuss the Act and the required pathways forward.

2. Regional Emergency Water Supply

The Emergency Water Supply Working Group has had its last meeting on 30 October. Water Asset Managers of Territorial Local Authorities, the WRC and the emergency managers are members of the Group. A draft strategy has been prepared with the following key elements:

- Public statements
- Supply reinstatement planning objectives
- High level integrated plan for water distribution during an emergency
- An enhanced strategy (5-year activity programme)

The relevant councils are working together to determine acceptable strategies, and the Regional Council's Water Group will report the outcomes to the Council in due time.

3. **Regional Emergency Road Access Working Group**

The Working Group had its second meeting on 10 October 2002. The group comprises of road asset managers of local authorities, emergency managers and Transit NZ. Utility managers and contractors are also invited to participate in the group when their input is needed.

The principle observation so far resulting from the meetings is that all the relevant role-players need to be more active to reduce vulnerability and to make response and recovery arrangements more robust for clearing road access following a major earthquake. It is also apparent that all the role-players require more urgent planning efforts, given the significant impact on both community welfare and the economy.

A small project team has been put together to develop a strategy that will consider reduction of the risk, readiness, response and recovery. The team comprises:

- Lachlan Wallach – Upper Hutt, Chairman and representing roading managers
- Paul Nickalls – Hutt City, representing Emergency Management
- Kevin Locke – Transit
- Rachel Cuthbertson – Wellington City
- Rian van Schalkwyk – Wellington Regional Council

The focus of the strategy is to deal with the potential “gaps” of reconnaissance, access for utility repairs, alternate roads, seismic screening of structures, emergency fuel arrangements, etc. The Wellington region is also uniquely vulnerable in terms of resources, utilities using the same contractors, just-in-time receipt of resources, low stock levels, little contingent capability, a fragmented market economy and a disconnect between asset owners. Most work today is contracted out.

4. **Emergency Management Marketing**

On the 2nd of October the Manager, Emergency Management, started a series of talks to Rotary clubs in the Region. The topic is emergency preparedness with emphasis on personal and organisational preparedness.

So far talks have been given to four clubs, (Hutt, Western Hutt, Stokes Valley, and Port Nicholson) with a combined attendance of about 250 people. Feedback revealed a lot of awareness and interest is created by the talks. Another six talks are planned to take place over the next five to six weeks.

As a contribution to the International Natural Hazard Awareness week, the Department has provided the Chambers’ of Commerce in the region with brochures about business continuity preparedness and the general public with postcards regarding personal preparedness. The Department has received positive feedback, (especially from the Chambers), on the campaign and also received a lot of requests for additional brochures.

5. Other activities

We attended several meetings where we discussed the formation of the CDEMG, action points flowing from Exercise Phoenix, public education, training and emergency management systems and communications.

The meetings attended were as follows:

- Emergency Management Officers Committee
- Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committees (Wairarapa, Porirua, Wellington and Kapiti Coast)
- Wellington Engineering Lifelines Executive, and the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management

The Manager, Emergency Management worked with members of the NZ Fire Service on their Earthquake Plan.

Earlier this year two Master Degree students of Massey University approached the Department to take part in their respective emergency management projects. During the year we have provided them with a lot of input. On 17 October they requested to interview the manager and to show him their completed projects. Both were masterpieces of engineering art and very applicable to emergency management (specially designed vehicles to be used in search and rescue and the recovery of the injured from dangerous areas after a major earthquake). The designs and prototypes were exhibited at the Old Museum from 8 to 15 November.

On 29 October the Manager, Emergency Management met with Robin Pennall to look at another model for emergency management. His model is all about “systems thinking” and includes education, simulation and communication. He is preparing a proposal and if of any substance, it could be something for our CDEMG to consider.

The Manager, Emergency Management attended a very successful Urban Search and Rescue workshop that took place on 5 November. The WRC, the National USAR Group, emergency services, local volunteer search and rescue groups and the other councils are now working very closely in putting a strategy together to address this urgent need.

The Manager, Emergency Management also attended the Wellington Regional Oil Support Group meeting on 6 November. Oil spill reports, significant incidents (Wellington, Gisborne and the Bluff), response plans, training, exercises and wild life response were discussed.

6. Environment

6.1 Earthquake reports:

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 29 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS. Of these, only the following earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region:

2002 Nov 10 Mag.: 3.7 **Depth:** 50 km *20 km east of Picton*

2002 Oct 29 Mag.: 4.0 **Depth:** 60 km *20 km east of Picton*

2002 Oct 18 Mag.: 4.1 **Depth:** 60 km *30 km east of Picton*

2002 Oct 14 Mag.: 3.4 **Depth:** 25 km *Within 5 km of Waikanae*

2002 Oct 12 Mag.: 3.9 **Depth:** 5 km *20 km north-west of Paraparaumu*

6.2 Special Weather Bulletins:

In the period 7 October to 12 November eighteen Special Weather Bulletins (6 for heavy rain and 12 for strong wind) were received. All parties involved were notified and some problems were experienced throughout the region with roofs being blown off and trees being blown over.

6.3 Communications:

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 31 October 2002

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the four month period ended 31 October 2002.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 31 October 2002</u>				
	<u>Actual</u>	Year to Date	<u>Variance</u>	Full Year
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>Budget</u>
		<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	2,361.8	2,361.8	--	7,085.4
Other Revenue	477.1	606.6	129.5 U	1,850.8
Total Revenue	2,838.9	2,968.4	129.5 U	8,936.2
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	2,445.8	2,634.8	189.0 F	8,064.5
Indirect Expenditure	333.1	328.7	4.4 F	1,006.1
Total Operating Expenditure	2,778.9	2,963.5	193.4 F	9,070.6
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	60.0	4.9	63.9 F	(134.4)

2. Surplus

Overall the Division's finances are satisfactory. For the period an operating surplus of \$60,000 was posted. The result is slightly higher than the budget, which provides for a smaller surplus of \$5,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$55,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$130,000, and reduced expenditure \$185,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$2,839,000 is some \$129,000 below

The reduced revenue is with a number of notified consents at various stages of completion. Because of this, the shortfall is considered to be temporary.

Recently, CentrePort contributed funding of \$7,000 towards the Kaiwharawhara estuary enhancement work and this item was not budgeted for specifically.

The annual charging round for consents is slightly behind because we are implementing a new electronic system, which has been tested rigorously before release. The additional time was spent identifying and resolving issues at the project stage.

4. **Total Expenditure**

The Division's expenditure at \$2,779,000, some \$185,000 (or 6.6%) below budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel expenses are presently in excess of budgets by \$45,000. However, with some recent staff movements we do not anticipate that this over-spend will be permanent.
- Material costs are presently under budget by \$37,000.
- The spend on a number of projects is presently at a lower than budgeted level.
- External Contractors and Consultants were \$139,000 under budget for the period.

The shortfall is mainly with the collection of unwanted agricultural chemical collection (\$43,000) and the stormwater investigation work (\$60,000).

The unwanted agricultural chemical collection is well advanced on the western side of the Region. However, the participation rate has been lower than expected. This is similar to the response pattern that was experienced with the Wairarapa collection.

The stormwater investigation work continues to be hindered by sampling difficulties.

The spend on Iwi projects (\$19,000) is slightly behind, compared to our budgets.

5. **Capital Expenditure**

The capital expenditure programme is some \$158,000 short of our budget expectations at the close of the period. The shortfall is with the vehicle replacement programme. We had planned for three utilities and a car to be replaced in September. However, because negotiations are yet to be concluded with potential vehicle dealers no transactions have taken place.