

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Education

Environment Education Department Report – September 2005

1. *Take Action*

Term three is drawing to a close with three guided schools now undertaking their action projects and four self-guided schools.

1.1 Guided schools taking action

This term the schools doing the guided programme are Douglas Park (Masterton), St Bernadette's (Lower Hutt), and Fergusson Intermediate (Upper Hutt).

At Fergusson Intermediate students have been planting up the Moehau Stream at the rear of the school and have put about a thousand additional trees into the ground in their school playing field. These will eventually grow to shade the stream, just over the fence. In late August three classes spent the day planting and mulching an area alongside the Moehau Stream, about 200 metres from the school, with the assistance of the local Forest and Bird group, which also supplied many of the plants. Upper Hutt City Council staff participated and also supplied plants. More planting will be done in this area in term four.

Students from St Bernadette's school have been planting trees provided by Hutt City Council and are developing a composting area for their food waste.

At Douglas Park School in Masterton six classes are taking part in the programme. Their initiatives include building a retaining wall to keep soil from entering a storm water drain, recycling the water from their Trees for Survival unit to use elsewhere, and creating signs with energy and water saving messages to be placed throughout the school.

1.2 Self-guided schools

This term's three self-guided schools are Waikanae, Gladstone, Bishop Viard (Porirua) and Mt Cook School (Wellington). All three have completed their trails and are working on action projects.

At Waikanae the students are planting the margins of a stream that runs through the grounds and recycling to reduce their rubbish. Gladstone students are also planting up the stream that runs alongside the school. At Mt Cook school the students have collected rubbish from the stream in Central Park and begun planting alongside it.

2. **Take Care**

Care groups continue to be very active around the region with winter planting still going strong. The unusually dry winter is adding some urgency to the need to get plants into the ground and to look after those that are already. It is becoming apparent that the soil is drying out and staff and group members have spent some time checking on established plantings and watering them. Hopefully the steady rain of the weekend of 17 September will have helped with this problem but it seems likely to recur. We have purchased an additional pump to undertake watering from streams where necessary.

The annual application round for *Take Care* is now open, with applications due by Friday 14 October.

3. **Corporate Volunteers Programme**

On 14 September volunteers from IAG and BP took part in a day's planting of trees provided by the Honda Tree Fund. The site was the Kakaho Stream at Pauatahanui. This stream contributes sediment to the Inlet so the riparian planting undertaken by staff from these companies will assist in mitigating this problem.

On Saturday 17 September members of the Guardians of Pautahanui Inlet group planted more Honda-provided trees on the Horokiri Stream. The Guardians are active in a number of ways to protect and restore the estuary, and are making an excellent contribution at this site. The recent study into the sedimentation of the Inlet demonstrated that the Horokiri Stream carries significant amounts of material which are derived from the stream banks and end up in a broad fan at the stream mouth.

Trees provided by Honda are also about to be planted at the Mangaone Stream by residents from Te Horo Beach. This will help fill in areas that were planted by the care group that worked on the stream until earlier this year.

4. **Office Waste Reduction at Greater Wellington**

We have been working to reduce the waste collected from Greater Wellington's offices since 2002-03. Waste reduction methods are being practised in the Masterton, Wellington and Upper Hutt offices. The purpose of the waste reduction programme is to reduce our rubbish for the good of the environment, to be in a sound position to promote waste reduction to others, and to enable us to meet Greater Wellington's target of reducing our waste by half in "Towards a Sustainable Region".

The waste reduction programme continues to run in these three offices. Since the recycling system got under way in Masterton in December 2002, the amount of waste has been steadily declining. The annual amount is now around 17,000 litres compared with 42,500 in 2001-02. An audit carried out of the Wellington office in June 2005 has shown a reduction of 35 per cent (by weight) on the 2003 figure. The audit demonstrated that there are opportunities to reduce this even further, particularly in the areas of food waste and keeping recyclables (plastic, cardboard, paper etc) out of the waste stream. Food waste makes up about 17% of our waste (by weight), paper and cardboard 28%, plastics, glass and other recyclables 22%, and other non-recyclable and non-organic waste 33%. It should also be pointed out that in some parts of the Council the amount of paper *generated* has also fallen through waste minimisation practices. Since putting Council and committee papers on line, for example, there has been a 45% reduction in paper used for this purpose.

We will soon begin reminding people how to recycle effectively and are working on a way to deal with food waste. Some food waste is already recycled in the Wellington office through worm farms and at the Upper Hutt office.

5. Regional awards for environmental projects

At the last Landcare Committee meeting, there was a question from Councillors about the desirability of a Greater Wellington award scheme for environmental projects. Such a scheme might apply to care groups, schools, businesses and other environmentally focused groups with which the Council has a relationship (e.g., parks groups). It would also provide a means of rewarding and recognising groups and individuals for their contribution to environmental restoration and improvement.

We have been investigating the merits of such a scheme and have already undertaken some work to test its applicability in schools. Murray Waititi and I will examine this question further and report back to the Committee with a recommendation as to how to proceed.

6. New staff member

I am pleased to inform the Committee that Paula Loader has been appointed to the position of *Take Care* Co-ordinator, previously held by Nigel Clarke. Paula has considerable experience of working on community restoration projects and with care groups. She worked on the care group programme in a temporary capacity prior to taking up this position.

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – September 2005

1. Regional Policy Statement and Plan Implementation

1.1 Freshwater Ecosystem Programme

Weirs and culverts in four urban streams, the Owhiro, Kaiwharawhara, Waiwhetu and Hulls Creek have been identified for fish passage mitigation work this year. Initial investigations at seven sites in the four streams have been carried out and concept designs for fish passes are being prepared. Community groups have prompted the work in all instances and once the concept designs are prepared there will be consultation with these groups.

1.2 Wetlands

Over the last month and the approach of spring, there has been an increase in demand for on-site wetland restoration advice. So far several landowner have approached us for advice and are interested in receiving a subsidy to fence their wetland from stock.

This month we distributed the first *Wild about waterways and wetlands* newsletter to over 100 landowners interested in streams and wetland restoration. It gives an update on the wetland and *Streams Alive* programmes and the availability of Greater Wellington publications.

1.3 Project Kaiwharawhara

Following the meeting of the various community groups and officers from Greater Wellington and Wellington City Council, plans are being made to “launch” several new signs throughout the catchment in mid-November. The signs will have generic material about the catchment, who is involved in the Project, what the aims of the Project and a map showing the whole area. The emphasis will be on “connectedness” – what happens in one area can affect other places, people and species downstream (“downstream” also in the sense of the future).

Councillors will be advised in more detail of the launch event nearer the time, but it is expected to include WCC councillors and relevant staff, as well as the

media and representatives of the various participating community and environmental groups.

1.4 Waiwhetu Stream

Continued effort has been made to ensure the integration of the Floodplain Management Study with the Stream Rehabilitation programme. It is clear that, in relation to lower part of the stream, the most sensible approach is to wrap investigations relating to flood protection options and the final remedial options for the contaminated sediments into one professional services contract to arrive at a total and integrated solution. Additional funding has been approved through the Landcare Committee to advance the flood protection aspects of the project and it may be necessary to seek limited additional funding through this Committee to finalise the investigations into the sediment remediation options.

2. State of the Environment Report

Technical reports are being written for each of the chapters in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). In some cases, where the resource being considered has many different aspects and an enormous amount of relevant data, such as water, a number of technical reports are needed, and their findings will be brought together and analysed in a background report. The technical and background reports will be available on the website when the State of the Environment Report is released.

Updates on the work done for five chapters of the State of the Environment Report are the subject of separate reports to the Committee.

3. Geographic Information Systems

The interactive map viewer tool for Greater Wellingtons internet site is now live. Web users can now create their own maps based on collections of information under the topics of hazards, environment (including land cover, soil type, water monitoring, care groups and a range of other information) and freshwater fish.

4. Other

4.1 District Plans and Notified Consents

Three notified resource consent applications have been received since the last Committee Report.

One submission was made on an application by Whitby Land Holdings Limited. The application was for subdivision and earthworks at Staites Drive Whitby. Greater Wellington's submission sought that:

- An erosion and sediment control plan be prepared to ensure protection of the receiving waterway and the Pauatahanui Inlet; and

- Appropriate conditions be placed on the consents to ensure that the relocation and repositioning of Greater Wellington Regional Council water main is undertaken to the satisfaction of Greater Wellington.

A hearing was scheduled for this application on Thursday 15 September but was subsequently cancelled.

A hearing is scheduled for 5 October on Hutt City Council's District Plan Change 4: Demolition and Relocation of Listed Heritage Buildings and Structures. No notified district plan changes have been received.

The quality of active fault information (and related text) for the Wairarapa District Plan is currently being reviewed.

4.2 National Air Quality Standards Update

Information about the Air Quality Standards and airsheds in the Wellington Region has been prepared for distribution to people who have copies of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan. The information gives a summary of the Standards and how they relate to rules in the Regional Plan. Information has also been distributed to the territorial authorities, including an offer of further information and discussion.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report – September 2005

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.

Details of alarms received are provided to the Committee to fulfil reporting requirements set out in the Annual Plan.

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following rainfall alarm was received and responded to:

31 July 2005	Rainfall: Wayne's Mistake
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2. Resource analysis

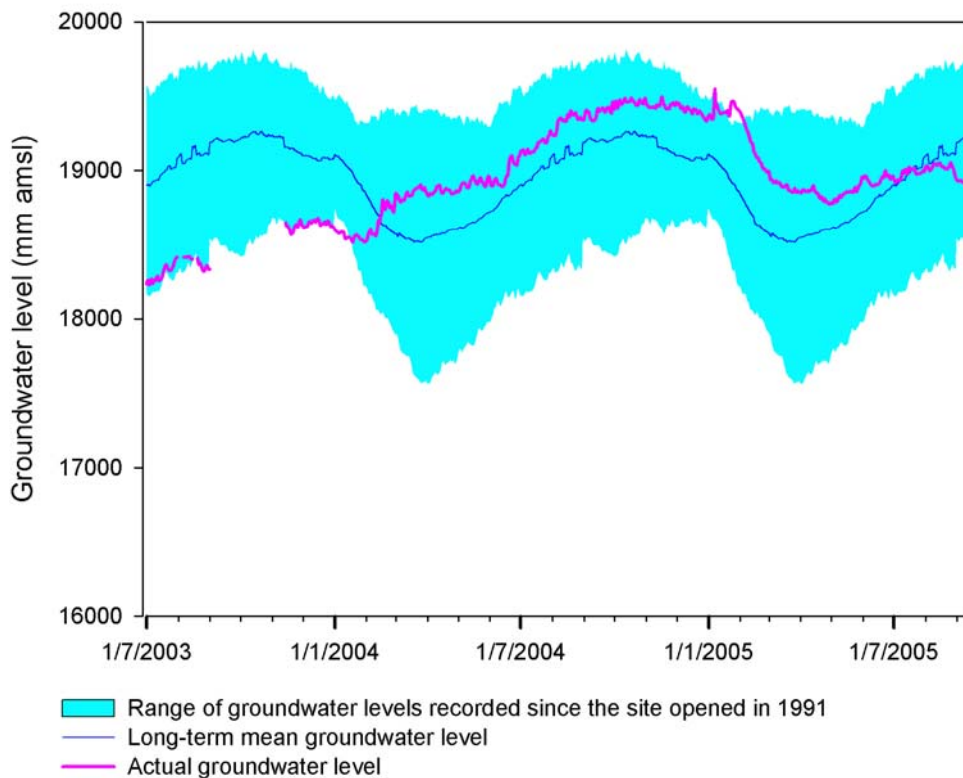
2.1 Groundwater levels

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. Records from these two bores and a synopsis of the situation are provided to the Committee at each meeting.

2.1.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is well below the long-term mean but still within the range of values observed since 1984. The water level decline that began in August is due to increased pumping by the Utility Services Division. The increased pumping has been necessary to compensate for the inability to supply water from the Wainuiomata Water Treatment Plant because of a 1080 drop in the catchment. Normally a 1080 drop would not

Monitoring bore S25/5208 at Te Horo, Kapiti

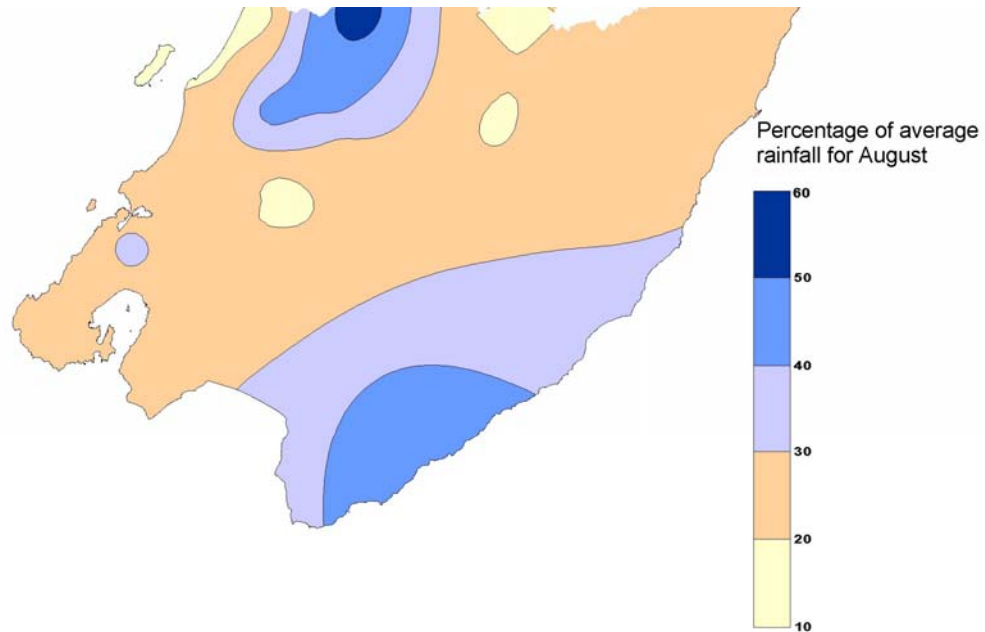


2.2 Rainfall and river flows

August 2005 was a very dry month, with very low rainfall totals over the entire region. The Tararua Range and Eastern Wairarapa hills were wetter than the rest of the region, but still received below average rainfall.

August was much drier, warmer, and sunnier than normal over most of New Zealand. Many northern and eastern regions of the country recorded less than 50 percent (half) of their normal rainfall. This was especially noticeable in the east between Wairarapa and Otago. More anticyclones occurred to the east of the South Island extending west over central New Zealand. This produced more frequent northwesterlies over much of the South Island. These conditions resulted in August's overall warmth and dryness.

Figure 1: Rainfall during August 2005 compared to the long-term average for August



As a result of the low rainfall, river flows were also well below average for the time of the year (Table 1). In early and mid-August there were a number of small events but since then river levels have been steadily decreasing.

Table 1: August river flows in the Wellington region

Site	Average flow during June 2005 (m ³ /s)	Long-term average for June (m ³ /s)
Waikanae River @ WTP	3.139	5.714
Waitohu Stream @ WSI	0.525	0.704
Hutt River @ Taita Gorge	12.603	32.021
Wainuiomata River @ Manuka Track	0.561	1.174
Porirua Stream @ Town Centre	0.534	1.142

Rainfall totals for September to date have also been well below average. Because of this very low rainfall rivers on the Kapiti Coast are beginning to reach the first alarm levels for low flows. The Waitohu Stream dropped below its minimum flow level of 140 litres per second between 13 and 15 September.

2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). The effects of transport emissions are monitored at the corner of Vivian and Victoria Streets. We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

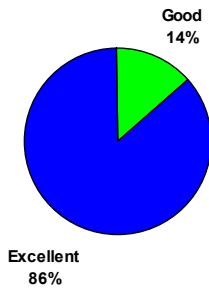
The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

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.

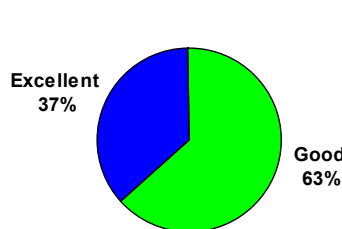
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the past two months at Upper Hutt

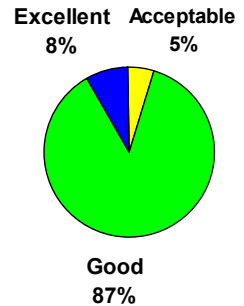
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

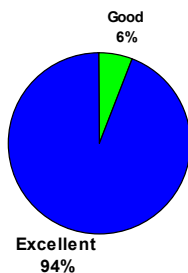


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt

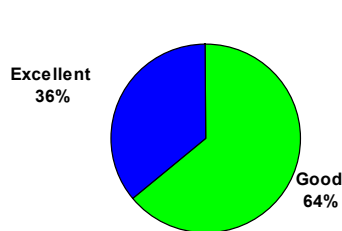


Results for the past two months at Lower Hutt

8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt

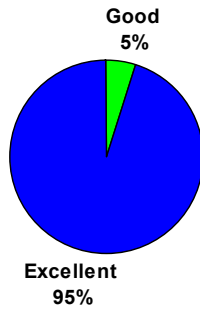


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt

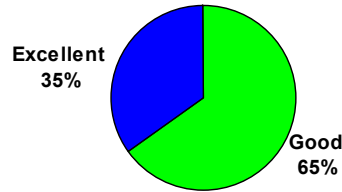


Results for the past two months at Masterton

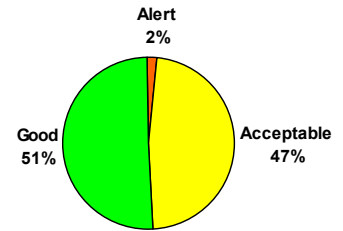
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



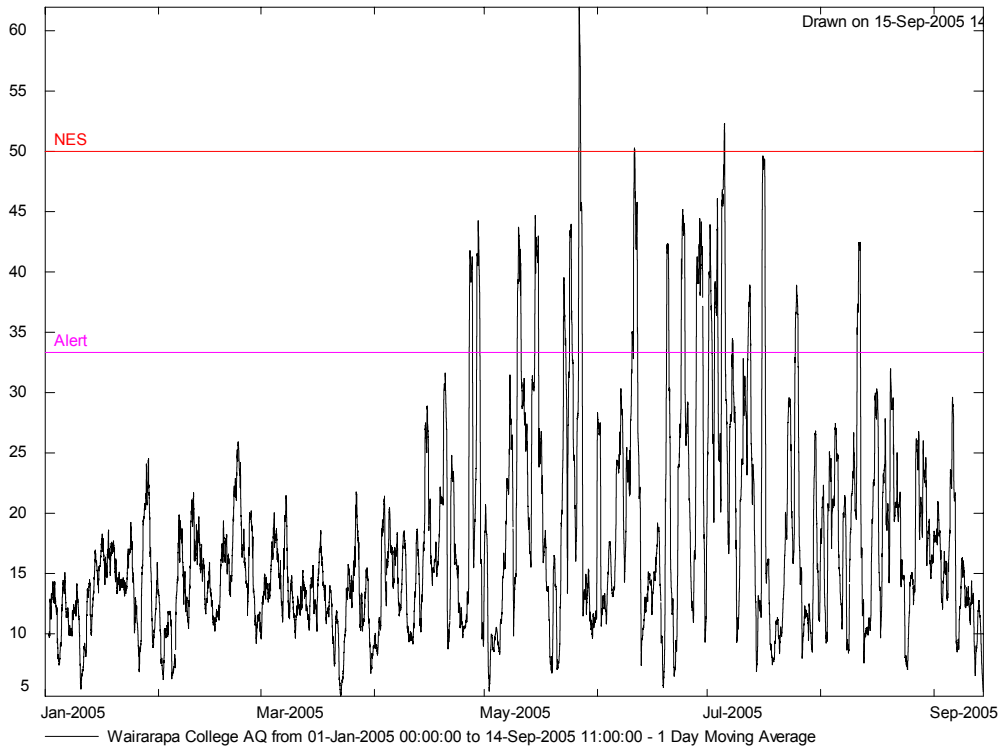
24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton

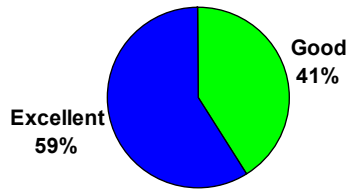


With the onset of spring and the decreased use of domestic fires for home heating, fine particle concentrations in Masterton have decreased. Monitoring results from the Wairarapa College air quality monitoring station are presented graphically below.

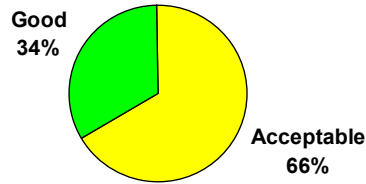


Results for the past two months at Corner Victoria & Vivian Streets

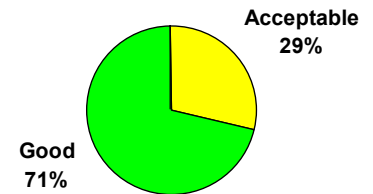
8-Hour Average CO at Corner V



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Corner V

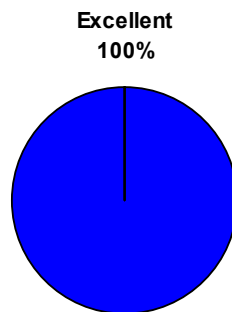


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Corner V



Results for the past two months at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



A permanent air quality monitoring site has been established at Savage Park in Upper Hutt. This became operational in early September. The mobile station which has been located at the Trentham Fire Station for the past few years will shortly be moved to a site in Porirua.

The mobile traffic emissions monitoring station will soon be deployed at Melling once resource consents have been gained from Hutt City Council.

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.

4. Staff

Darren Li has joined the Resource Information team as an Environmental Monitoring Officer: Air Quality. Darren has experience in undertaking air quality monitoring in China, but more recently has been working in the plastics industry in Porirua.

Nigel Corry
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – September 2005

1. Consent statistics

1.1 Consents Received since 1 July 2005

In the period from 1 July 2005 to 16 September 2005, we received 100 consents. This compares to 88 for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we processed 64 consents, compared to 92 for the previous year.

All consents processed in the current financial year have been completed within statutory timeframes.

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

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Ridvan Garden Developments Limited

The joint GW/Wellington City Council decision on the Ridvan Gardens consent, which was released on 19 July, has been appealed by two parties - Action for the Environment Inc. and the Southern Environmental Association (Wellington) Incorporated. Both appeals are identical in their content, and while the majority of reasons for appeal relate to issues under the City Council jurisdiction, issues such as protection of small gullies, culverting and cumulative effects are relevant to GW.

The notice of appeal lodged by Action for the Environment was filed out of time. The Environment Court has subsequently written to the appellant requesting an application for waiver of time be filed for consideration. The applicant has also formally written to the Court via their solicitors, indicating that they do not feel that the issues raised in the appeals will be able to be resolved by way of mediation, and that they will seek to go straight to a hearing.

2.2 Wellington Waterfront Limited

As previously noted in my Manager's Report of August 2005, the Wellington City Council's decision to grant consents relating to works at Kumutoto, North Queens Wharf was appealed by Maritime Towers Limited. GW was not named as a respondent in the Maritime Towers appeal, and we did not become a party to the appeal, which has subsequently been withdrawn in any case.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

3.1.1 Annual Compliance Report

We are currently in the process of developing the Annual Compliance report for the 2004/05 year, in conjunction with the Wairarapa. We have continued to streamline this report to make it more user friendly, to provide a concise overview of some of the highlights of the year's compliance work, and to promote positive outcomes of our compliance work. The intention is that the compliance report now simply be in a pamphlet format, which will be easy to print and distribute. We also hope that a report of this nature will be easier for the media to digest and report on. This 'streamlined' approach has developed as the preferred option, given that previous reports, which have been large, wordy, and repetitious, have not been particularly well received by our customers. While I will not have a fully completed annual compliance report to table at the meeting, I will bring a draft for information.

3.1.2 Wainuiomata Landfill

There has been a few complaints and bit of media coverage recently in relation to odour coming from the Wainuiomata landfill. Some reports have linked the odour to Exide waste which is deposited at the landfill. However, at this stage there is no evidence to suggest that this is necessarily the source of odour. There has been one confirmed breach of consent in relation to offensive or objectionable odour which occurred on 16 July 2005, and this is currently the subject of a 'please explain' letter. In response to the recent odour complaints, we are working closely with the Hutt City Council, and are confident that steps being taken by Hutt City will assist in resolving the problem.

3.2 Abatement notices

We have served one abatement notice since the last meeting. The notice was served on Carrus Limited and required them to comply with their sediment and erosion control plan, and to carry out associated erosion and sediment control works, in relation to their works at the Aotea block subdivision. Carrus Limited has subsequently complied with the requirements of this notice.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have not served any infringement notices since the last Committee meeting.

Reminder notices have been sent to Taylor Preston Limited for three currently unpaid infringement notices issued on 29 July 2005, and also to Summerset Villages for two currently unpaid infringement notices served on 2 August 2005.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

There are no prosecution proceedings currently underway.

We are making some progress with the Mangaroa Metals enforcement order application with Michael Mears and others, and continue discussions with all parties. It now appears likely that we will be able to reach resolution without the need to go back to Environment Court. In the event we do go back to Court, we continue to be satisfied that we are in a strong position in relation to this matter and that the application for an enforcement order will again be denied by the Courts. We have also put Mr Mears on notice that the Council intends to seek costs.

4. Other

4.1 Exide Technologies Review

The Exide Technologies Ltd consent review hearing has now concluded, and a decision is due to be released early October. As with most of the review process, the hearing was well attended and generated a fair degree of media interest. We are well aware that once the decision is released there will be follow up stories in the media and we are working with Natalie Quirke (Environment Division Communications Advisor) to develop a press release and question and answer material for the media, submitters and interested parties once the decision is released.

4.2 Meridian Wind Farm Application

Over 4,000 submissions were received in relation to this consent application, about 700 of which were in opposition. The hearing is scheduled to take place over at least two weeks, commencing 26 September. The major issue for our consents relates to the size and scale of the proposed roading and earthworks, and associated silt and sediment control. There is 1.7 million m³ of earthworks proposed which will occur in 12 earthwork catchment areas designated by the applicant. An 18-24 month construction period is anticipated, by which time all 70 of the proposed turbines are planned to be completely installed.

4.3 Marine Conservation Centre

The long promised Marine Conservation Centre consent applications at Te Reakihau Point have now been lodged with both us and the Wellington City Council. It is likely that this application will be jointly notified with the Wellington City Council acting as lead agency.

4.4 Careys Gully

The latest Careys Gully Community Liaison Group meeting was held on 1 September. As usual we participated. While the range of issues covered were fairly typical, Living Earth Limited also presented the joint proposal with WCC to trial a project to process food waste. This activity requires a discharge to air consent from us.

4.5 Staff issues

Claire O’Hehir is transferring to the Pollution Control team, with her last day in the Department being 23 September. While it is sad to lose Claire, we are pleased that she is at least staying within the Division!

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
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.	-	-	-
Wharfe Quarry ¹	To undertake a quarrying operation, including discharge of stormwater, dam and diversion of water, taking of water and piping a watercourse.	06/11/03	04/02/04	57 plus 2 late	-	Hearing not yet scheduled - on hold under s92 and s91 of the RMA 1991.	-	-	-
Ridvan Garden Development	To lay culverts and discharge contaminated stormwater as part of a residential subdivision development in Crofton Downs.	23/12/04	25/02/05	51		27/28 June	Sally Baber Liz Mellish Ian Hutchison	19 July	Appealed by Action for the Environment and the Southern Environmental Association.
Wellington Waterfront Ltd and the Wellington Tenth's Trust	To construct and maintain a new Wharewaka on the western side of the extended Lambton Harbour Lagoon.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	-	Currently adjourned
The Wellington Tenth's Trust	To construct and maintain a new building (wharanui) at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	-	Currently adjourned

¹ This application will be jointly heard with Porirua City Council

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
Wellington Waterfront Limited	To develop, use and maintain public spaces, landscaped areas and associated structures at Taranaki Street Wharf.	02/06/05	08/07/05	54	-	22/23 August and 6/7 September	Glen Evans Aka Arthur	-	Currently adjourned
Hutt City Council	To discharge treated and disinfected wastewater from the Seaview wastewater treatment plant.	07/06/05	20/07/05	3	6 September 2005	Hopeful that this application can be negotiated out.	-	-	-
Meridian Energy Limited ²	Various land use, discharge, and coastal permits associated with the development of the "West Wind" wind farm proposal.	01/07/05	10/08/05	4000 +	-	Scheduled for late September and early October.	Commissioners	-	-
Wellington Marine Conservation Centre	Establish an aquarium at Te Raekaihau Point	13/09/05							

² This application will be jointly heard with Wellington City Council

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – September 2005

1. Harbour navigation aids

On 2 September a trial AIS (Automatic Identification System) was installed at Beacon Hill Communications Station. This allows ships fitted with AIS equipment to be tracked onto an electronic chart. With the advantageous height of Beacon Hill, it not only tracks ships in Wellington Harbour but can track Cook Strait ferries as far as Tory Channel, other ships past The Brothers, and also ships passing Cape Campbell. This equipment will enable staff to become familiar with the operation and limitations of AIS.

All navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil pollution response

- Eight reports of oil spills were received and investigated.

Only one small spill of black oil into the harbour required a limited cleanup response by the Harbours Department.

- Two Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) staff members attended a Field Operations Course in August and a further two GWRC staff attended a Fundamentals Course in September.

3. Port and harbour risk assessment

Work has continued on this project and the final risk assessment report is expected to be completed by the end of September.

4. New Interislander ferry “Challenger”

The new Toll Shipping/Interislander ferry *Challenger* commenced commercial sailings across Cook Strait on 22 August. The new ferry is of 22,365 gross tonnage, and has a capacity for 1,600 passengers and 600 cars. The vessel is temporarily using Inter Island Wharf until a new berth is ready for use about mid-November at the Rail Ferry Terminal area at Kaiwharawhara. Some problems were experienced at the temporary berth with fendering and mooring bollards.

5. General

Captain Rolf Gromme of CentrePort completed his initial pilotage training and passed a pilotage examination on 26 August, becoming a new licensed pilot for Wellington.

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – September 2005

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 Progress with CDEM Group Work programmes

1.1.1 CDEM Group Public Information and Media Management Plan

To ensure that we have robust methods and relationships in place for providing information to the public and to the media in the lead up to, and following a major emergency, a project team has been appointed to develop a draft CDEM Group Public Information and Media Management Plan. This Plan needs to be finalised and implemented by 30 June 2006.

1.1.2 CDEM Group Welfare Management Plan

To cater for regional welfare requirements during a major emergency event, a working group comprising the staff of the Group Emergency Management Office, territorial authorities and regional welfare agencies has been established to develop a draft CDEM Group Welfare Management Plan. This Plan also needs to be completed and implemented by 30 June 2006.

1.1.3 Review of Standard Operating Procedures

One of the requirements of the CDEM Group Plan is for local authorities' operations centres to review their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by 30 June 2006.

SOPs had to be in place with the CDEM Group Plan becoming effective on 5 May 2005. As an interim measure, a working group comprising emergency management officers has developed a framework for these procedures and all councils have updated their standard operating procedures in time for the 5 May deadline.

A review of the current SOPs will be carried out by the Group Emergency Management Office and the Ministry of CDEM and any amendments necessary will be made by 30 June 2006.

1.1.4 Clarification of CDEM Group role in Public Health Hazards

To ensure that we understand exactly what role the CDEM Group will play in public health hazards (pandemics, exotic animal diseases, etc.) and to identify what is expected of the Group in these types of emergency event, a working group comprising local authorities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and District Health Boards has been established to work through this issue.

1.1.5 Development of a joint agency training and exercise schedule

Another requirement of the CDEM Group Plan is to establish and maintain a schedule of training and exercise dates for distribution throughout the CDEM Group's partners and participating agencies.

An interim system is currently being used to advise partners and agencies of training and exercise dates during the year.

The NZ Fire Service has been tasked to facilitate this programme.

1.1.6 Sewage disposal during and after emergencies

The Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) requested the Group Emergency Management Office to investigate the disposal of sewage during major emergencies.

A working group comprising local authorities (asset managers and emergency management managers), Regional Public Health, District Health Boards, Greater Wellington's Pollution Control, and waste management contractors have been set up to identify the issues regarding sewage disposal. The group has to come up with options to contain effluent from households and other facilities. This project will cover storage, collection, disposal and possible health risks.

1.1.7 CDEM Group EOC Communications – satellite system

Greater Wellington engaged the services of Consultel to investigate an alternate communication system for the Region.

Consultel recommended that the Council consider the *iP-Star400* satellite system at a cost of approximately \$180,000 for the hardware. However, the operating cost (approximately \$96,000 p.a.) for the "space segment" is prohibitive. In addition, there are further concerns. The hardware will need to be replaced every five to eight years, while the satellite facility will need replacing between years 12 and 14 years.

No emergency service, defence force and the Ministry of CDEM is considering using this system; we are therefore of the opinion that the financial outlay is not justified.

We have also been working with other non-satellite system suppliers and quite a number of robust and effective alternate communications systems are available. We will be reporting further on progress.

2. Marketing and Communications

2.1 Emergency Preparedness

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act) requires each CDEM Group to promote and raise public awareness of hazards and risks and the Act itself (s.17 (1) (a) (g)).

The CDEM Group has recognised the importance of public education by including a CDEM Group Public Education Strategy in its work programme outlined in the CDEM Group Plan. The Strategy is scheduled for the 2007/2008 financial year.

In the mean time, the Group is carrying out public education work to alert and inform Wellington Region residents about the need to be prepared for an emergency and what their individual responsibilities are.

3. Public education initiatives

3.1 The CDEM Group website

An assessment of business continuity in the CDEM Group Office revealed that the current CDEM Group website server (housed in the Regional Council Centre building) may not withstand damage caused in a major earthquake.

It was decided to move the server to another platform in Auckland. The Group Office personnel have been working with Clone New Zealand to develop a new website that will be much more robust than the present site, and contain much more information.

The new website will feature the following information areas:

1. About us (the CDEM Group) - This section will display how the Group is made up and what functions it serves.
2. Be prepared - This section will contain a lot of information about storing emergency water, collating an emergency survival kit, developing a household emergency plan etc.
3. CDEM Sector – This section is for the CDEM Sector and will contain information relating to the CDEM Group Plan, such as work programmes and training and exercise dates.

4. Emergency Information (only displayed in an emergency event) - This section will display an overview of an emergency event, list situation reports, providing information to the media and the public. It will also provide information on what to do during and after an emergency so that people can better look after themselves in an emergency.

The final look and feel of the website was signed off in early September and the website will go live in early October 2005.

3.2 Disaster Reduction Week (9-15 October 2005)

The Group, in conjunction with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM), are running a campaign during Disaster Reduction Week where the CDEM profile of the STING emergency beacon (the sound that will be heard over the radio) will be broadcast via radio stations to advise the public what to do when they hear the STING. In addition, MCDEM will also be running their 'Know what it takes' radio campaign in the same week.

The Group has developed a household emergency plan that is printed in a wallet sized format. The household plans will be distributed to the territorial authorities for dissemination in their local communities. The household plans will also be handed out to commuters (train, motor vehicles). The household emergency plans will be supported by an A2 poster profiling the need to store emergency water, food, and to have, and practise a household emergency plan.

3.3 Yellow Pages

The Yellow Pages information has been updated and remodelled for the 2005/2006 year. The new format will appear in the new books due out in early October 2005.

3.4 Elements

The Greater Wellington publication 'Elements' is published quarterly and over the last two issues has profiled emergency management quite prominently. It is intended that this continue in issues to come.

The next issue is due out at the end of September 2005.

4. Environment

4.1 Earthquake Reports:

Since preparing the last report for the Environment Committee meeting 30 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from GNS. Six earthquakes were felt in the Wellington Region.

Aug 31 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.4 **Depth:** 25 km *10 km south of Eketahuna*

Aug 27 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.9 **Depth:** 50 km *30 km west of Porirua*

Aug 21 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.6 **Depth:** 30 km *30 km south of Wellington*

Aug 19 2005 **Magnitude:** 4.3 **Depth:** 70 km *50 km west of Foxton*

Aug 18 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.2 **Depth:** 3 km *20 km west of Paraparaumu*

Aug 05 2005 **Magnitude:** 3.5 **Depth:** 30 km *within 5 km of Upper Hutt*

Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant
Financial Position: 31 August 2005

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the period ended 31 August 2005.

<u>Environment Division</u>				
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>				
<u>For the Period Ended 31 August 2005</u>				
	<u>Actual</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>\$000s</u>	<u>Full Year</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>\$000s</u>
Rates	1,350	1,350	--	8,097
Other Revenue	309	336	27 U	2,147
Total Revenue	1,659	1,686	27 U	10,244
Less:				
Direct Expenditure	1,205	1,415	210 F	9,003
Indirect Expenditure	231	240	9 F	1,427
Total Operating Expenditure	1,436	1,655	219 F	10,430
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	223	31	192 F	(186)

2. Surplus

The Division's finances are in a sound position and overall slightly higher than we anticipated in our budgets. An operating surplus of \$223,000 was recorded, which is up on our budgeted surplus of \$192,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance of \$192,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$27,000, and offset, by lower than expected expenditure of \$31,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$1,659,000 is some \$27,000 short of our budget target of \$1,686,000.

The shortfall is due to a lower than expected number of notified consents processed in the first few months of the year.

However, we received funds of \$34,000 from the Ministry for the Environment towards the cost of an Air Quality Monitoring Station, and this has helped offset some of that shortfall. This contribution was not specifically included in our budget.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's expenditure at \$1,436,000 is some \$219,000 less than our budget.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- **Personnel costs** were slightly under budget by \$70,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the underspend. We have assumed for budgeting purposes that the saving that arises from a staff vacancy will be offset fully by any subsequent recruitment cost.
- **Materials, Supplies and Services** are less than budget by \$43,000.

The reduced number of notified consents and introduction of "limited" notified consents has meant that our call for commissioners to hear applications is less than we expected (\$13,000).

- **Consultant costs** were less than budget by \$84,000.

Some of the specialist external costs are at a lower level from those that we anticipated in our budgets and these are mainly for laboratory and technical assistance. We expect that this variance will be corrected later in the year.

In addition, QE11 National Trust work is behind (\$14,000). Although funds have been allocated, invariably, with this type of work there is a significant time-lag from the stage funds are committed to the completion of projects.

5. Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure programme is in general agreement with our budgets, with some \$27,000 spent on an Air Quality Monitoring Station as planned.