



Report 05.645
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Committee Environment Committee
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Pollution Control Report for the period 19 August to 4 November 2005

1. Purpose

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the western Wellington Region during the reporting period.

2. Background

These pollution control initiatives provided are summarised below:

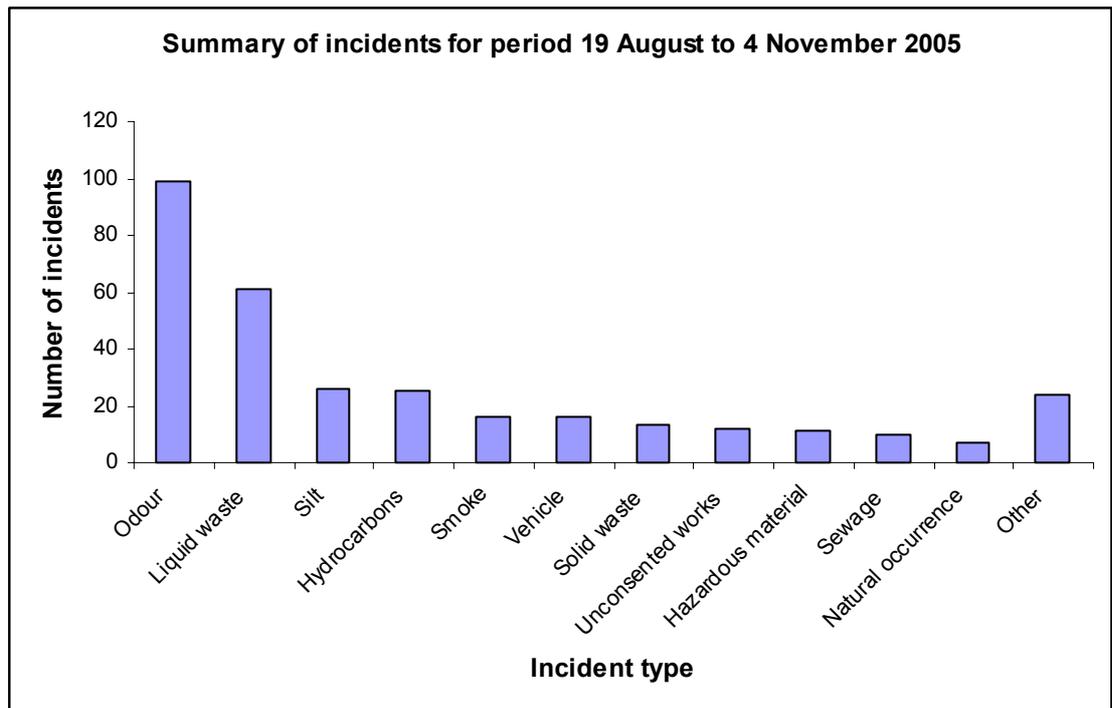
- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium-sized industry.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

3. Incidents

3.1 Incident summary

A total of 320 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Odour was again the predominant incident class, with a total of 99 incidents. The majority of odour incidents (54%) were for Carey’s Gully, 12% for Taylor Preston and 10% for the Wainuiomata landfill. The increase in odour incidents attributed to the Wainuiomata landfill has occurred due to inadequacies in the control of stabilised lead slag being disposed of at the site. Our Consents Management Department and Pollution Control Team are working closely with Hutt City Council to resolve this issue.



The most significant incidents that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

- Joy riders dumped three cars into a stream on Moonshine Road. Despite the inaccessible location, the Pollution Control Team arranged for the vehicles to be removed.
- There was an accidental release of 250 litres of jet fuel at Wellington International Airport, due to the failure of a stop valve on a Qantas aircraft fuel tank. The airport emergency response team attended the incident, and recovered all fuel that entered stormwater drains serving the apron. There was no significant adverse environmental impact from this incident.
- A defective coupling on a bulk storage tank led to a bitumen spill of up to 20,000 litres from the Works Infrastructure site at Kiwi Point. The spilled material was effectively contained on site and recovered, and there was no associated pollution.
- Unconsented earthworks destroyed what was considered to be an ephemeral watercourse beside Ohariu Road in Johnsonville. Regulatory options are currently being considered.
- Pollution Control Officers responded to three separate incidents where large lumps of sodium metal were dumped on open ground. This is a highly reactive element, and a media release was prepared informing members of the public of its explosive properties and how to report future sightings.

3.2 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and attending on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that all incident response targets were met comfortably.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	52 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	11.16 hours
Blue (7 days)	2.3 days

4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	16
Infringement Notices	0
Abatement Notices	4
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions [information's laid]	0

An abatement notice was issued to Brian and Michelle McNeil to remove or legalise unconsented structures (a bridge and a weir) in the Mangaroa River.

An abatement notice was issued to Wellington City Council to remove or legalise a vehicle track and dams installed without a resource consent along a tributary of the Carey's Gully Stream. The Council has since applied for a resource consent for the structures, and is in the process of upgrading them to a standard consistent with resource consent requirements.

An abatement notice was issued to Patrick Roil for the disposal of non-cleanfill material and the damming/diversion of a stream channel on his Judgeford property. The notice required removal of non-cleanfill material and the reinstatement of the stream channel.

Prosecution proceedings have commenced against Burrell Demolition Ltd and Alex Burrell for unconsented works in the bed of a tributary of Carey's Gully Stream on 22 July 2005.

The Pollution Control Team is currently considering regulatory options for other environmental incidents that occurred during this reporting period.

5. Take Charge

The Pollution Control Officers have completed initial assessments of 49 businesses along the north side of Ihakara Street in Paraparaumu, as part of the Drain 6 investigation. Of these, 24 sites will receive a more detailed assessment, which should be completed by Christmas 2005. Pollution Control Officers have visited seven of these businesses to date.

Pollution Control Officers have also revisited 6 service stations to evaluate progress in implementing recommendations for environmental improvements.

6. Special projects

6.1 Muddy Waters

The Muddy Waters project has recently focused upon developing a suite of resources for consents and compliance officers, up-skilling council officers and providing advice to developers, contractors, consultants and members of the public. This phase will come to an end in December, when final versions of all resources will be delivered. The next phase will comprise a series of biennial workshops with territorial authorities, to review regulatory effectiveness for small site erosion and sediment control.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary