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Committee Environment Committee  
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## Pollution Control Report for the period 10 March to 28 April 2006

### 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

The Environment Management Division manages environmental pollution via the following:

- 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 170 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Figure 2 indicates the breakdown of the odour complaints. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 10 March to 28 April 2006

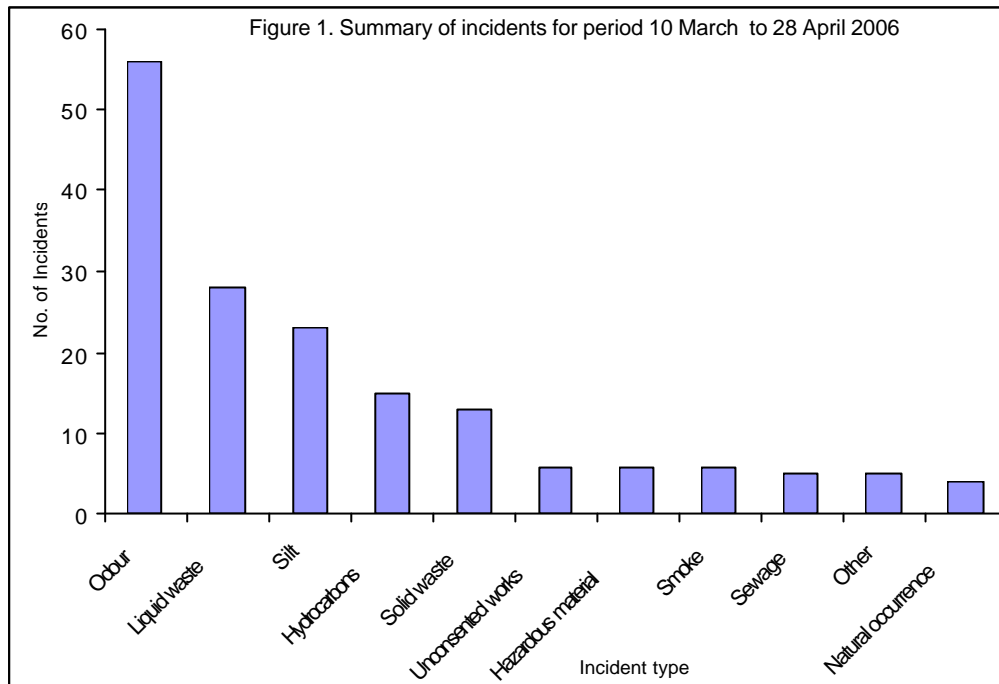
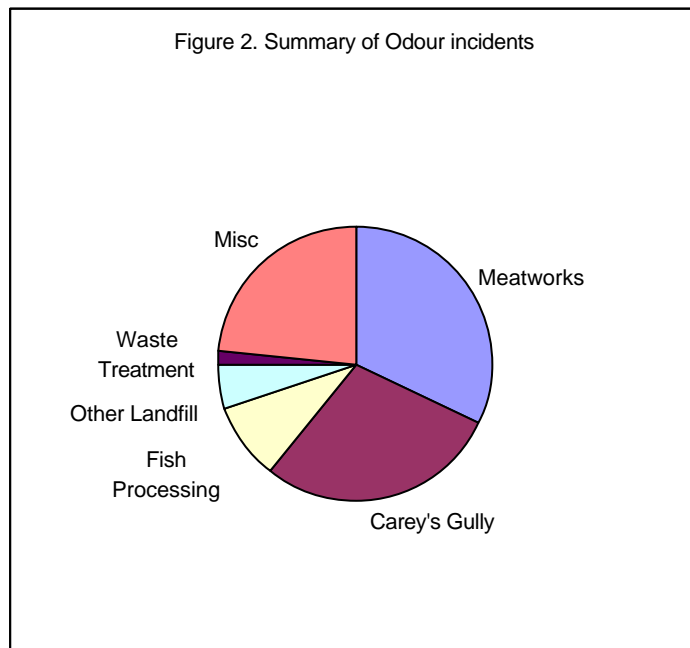


Figure 2: Summary of Odour Incidents



Significant incidents that occurred during this reporting period are summarised below:

- Significant discolouration of the Wellington Harbour was attributed to a silt discharge from Horokiwi Quarry, which is subject to a resource consent. This issue has been referred to the Consents Management Department for further investigation.
- A Karori sewer overflowed into a nearby stormwater drain, contaminating the Kaiwharawhara Stream. Wellington City Council staff quickly cleared

the blockage, and co-ordinated public health warnings with the Regional Public Health service.

- There was a discharge of cement dust to Aotea Quay, following the failure of a bulk transfer pipeline. Cement powder was discharged over the wharf. Residues were promptly removed, and there was no significant environmental impact. However, similar incidents have occurred on several occasions in recent years.
- A paint spill from an unknown vehicle on Evans Bay Parade led to a significant paint plume in the water off Hataitai Beach. The Pollution Control Team subsequently required representatives of Fulton Hogan to improve the company's road cleaning practices.
- Significant silt discharges to streams occurred at several major subdivision developments in the region, including Cortina Avenue (22 March), Nikau Views (28 March) and Best Farms (4 April). All of the incidents are under investigation.
- Several tonnes of treated waste sludge from Taylor Preston discharged onto State Highway 1 in the Ngauranga Gorge, when the tailgate of a truck opened in transit. Emergency services closed the road and co-ordinated the clean-up, and there was no significant discharge of contaminants to the adjacent stream. Investigation costs are to be recovered from the vehicle owner.
- Highly alkaline wash water was discharged from the Allied Concrete site in Happy Valley, into the nearby stream. Formal regulatory action is likely given the history of similar discharges from this site.
- Intentional draining of an oil tank containment bund at a consented construction site at Karori Park led to substantial oil contamination in the adjacent stream. Regulatory action is being considered.

### 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 yellow and blue incident response targets were met comfortably, with a minor exceedance for 'red' responses, which arose as officers were unable to investigate some incidents in the hours of darkness.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	64 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	5.7 hours
Blue (7 days)	0.7 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	5
Infringement Notices	3
Abatement Notices	1
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions [information's laid]	0

- Abatement and infringement notices were issued to Ralph Williams of 164 Upper Fitzherbert Avenue Wainuiomata, in response to unauthorised infilling of a wetland area.
- An infringement notice was issued to Norman Cobb for failure to comply with an abatement notice that was issued in response to unauthorised re-alignment of the Wainuiomata River.
- An infringement notice was issued to Capacity in response to the installation of a debris arrester and gabion baskets in a stream without obtaining the necessary resource consents.

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

## 5. Take Charge

Officers are revisiting ten sites from the Drain 6 catchment, which were identified as requiring follow-up action to review progress with implementing recommendations made during previous site audits.

A new *Take Charge* audit form has been developed, to remove the delay between the audit taking place and a formal report being delivered to the site. Audit reports can now be issued on the spot as a tear-off form, giving recipients an instant record of their performance, and reminder of actions required.

## 6. Special projects

Discussions are underway to determine whether *Take Charge* can be applied to a small industrial area in Onepoto, as a pre-cursor to a Porirua City Council proposal to upgrade stormwater drainage in the area. This industrial area is suspected to be the source of several pollution incidents in the nearby stream in recent years, including an incident that killed 25 eels in April 2006.

A report card has been produced to summarise the activities of the Pollution Control Team during 2004-05. A copy of this report card has been appended to this report.

## **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:

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**Attachment 1:** Incident Response Summary

**Attachment 2:** Pollution Control State of the Environment Report 2005 - Summary