

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – February 2008

1. Maintaining regional plans

1.1 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan

Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan sets up a regime for managing noise related to port activities. This plan change is being done jointly with Wellington City Council. Their District Plan manages noise above mean high water springs and our Regional Coastal Plan manages noise below mean high water springs. The end result will provide for port noise management that is integrated across jurisdictional boundaries.

The plan change was notified on 19 December 2006. There were 8 submitters. A joint hearing on both plan changes was held on 2 July. The hearing committee completed its deliberations and made recommendations to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee, which were approved at its meeting on 27 September. The decisions of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee were notified on Saturday 6 October. One appeal from Wellington International Airport was received on 20 November 2007, and a lawyer has been instructed and responded to the Environment Court with a Notice of Reply. In December 2007 CentrePort joined the proceedings as a section 274 party.

1.2 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Plan change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was publicly notified on 26 May 2007. This plan change limits the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. Submissions on the plan change closed on 15 October 2007 and four submissions were received (and no further submissions).

Staff reports have been drafted and discussions held with submitters.

2. National Environment Standard for sources of human drinking water

The Government gazetted the *National Environmental Standard for sources of human drinking water* in December 2007. It is intended to reduce the risk of contaminating drinking water sources (such as rivers and groundwater) by requiring regional councils to consider the effects of activities on drinking water sources in their decision making.

The national environmental standard is a regulation under the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991. It specifically requires regional councils to:

- decline discharge or water permits that are likely to result in community drinking water becoming unsafe for human consumption following existing treatment
- be satisfied that permitted activities in regional plans will not result in community drinking water supplies being unsafe for human consumption following existing treatment
- place conditions on relevant resource consents requiring notification of drinking water suppliers if significant unintended events occur (e.g. spills) that may adversely affect sources of human drinking water.

There will be a six month phase-in of the standard to give councils, water suppliers and consent applicants time to become familiar with its requirements. This means the standard will come into effect on 20 June 2008.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – February 2008

1. Rainfall and River Flows

1.1 Rainfall

Following a wet October, November 2007 was a very dry month (Table 1). Although parts of the Tararua Range received about average rainfall, the rest of the region had rainfall totals for November well below the long-term average. The driest areas were the northern Wairarapa valley, eastern Wairarapa hills, and Paraparaumu, where rainfall was in the range 20-40% of average for the month. Wellington city, Porirua, Wainuiomata, and southern Wairarapa had around half the average November rainfall. Of note, Masterton received only 17 mm of rainfall in November. Records from our monitoring stations in the eastern Wairarapa hills show that it was the driest November there since 1984. At Karori Reservoir, the 38 mm of rainfall measured is the lowest for November in 10 years.

Table 1: Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for November 2007, compared to long-term average

	November 2007 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for November (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for November
Otaki Depot (Kapiti Coast)	64.5	88	73%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	38	91	42%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	78.5	129	61%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	356.5	607	59%
Alloa (Featherston)	30	89	34%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	24	74	32%

December 2007 continued with the pattern of very dry weather. Rainfall for the month (Table 2) was below average throughout the region, with the exception of north-eastern Wairarapa. In Wellington city and on the Wairarapa plains rainfall was slightly lower than average for December, but in the Tararua Ranges, Kapiti Coast and Wainuiomata rainfall was less than half the average for the time of the year. It was one of the driest Decembers on record in some parts of the region.

Table 2: Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for December 2007, compared to long-term average

	December 2007 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for December (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for December
Waikanae Water Treatment Plant	47.5	104	46%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	79.6	89	89%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	47.5	130	37%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	272.5	620	44%
Alloa (Featherston)	76.2	83	92%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	95.5	92	104%

The year 2007 had less than average rainfall throughout the region (Table 3). Wainuiomata and the Wairarapa plains were the overall driest areas compared to average, with rainfall totals for the year in the range 56 to 70% of long-term mean annual rainfall. In fact, it was the lowest rainfall total at Wainuiomata Reservoir (1086 mm) since records began in 1890. At many other Greater Wellington monitoring stations 2007 ranked as one of the driest years in the last few decades, including at Alloa (Featherston), Kaitoke Headworks, and Waikanae.

The low annual rainfall totals were primarily due to an exceptionally dry period from February through until early winter as a result of El Nino. In many places only two or three months of the year experienced average or above-average rainfall totals.

La Nina conditions were well-established in the Pacific at the end of the quarter and are expected to persist through until autumn 2008. During La Nina, westerly winds are weakened and dry conditions can occur throughout the Wellington region.

Table 3: Annual rainfall statistics at key Greater Wellington monitoring stations

Site	Year records began	Long-term average	Driest on record	2007 rainfall	2007 rainfall compared to average	Comment
Karori Reservoir	1879	1235 mm	693 mm in 1889	1001 mm	81%	
Kaitoke Headworks	1951	2345 mm	1410 mm in 1969	1617 mm	70%	2 nd driest on record
Wainuiomata Reservoir	1890	1940 mm	1154 mm in 1891	1086 mm	56%	Driest on record
Waikanae Water Treatment Plant	1970	1190 mm	885 mm in 2005	925 mm	78%	2 nd driest on record
Alloa (Featherston)	1964	1060 mm	727 mm in 1973	728 mm	69%	About driest equal on record

Site	Year records began	Long-term average	Driest on record	2007 rainfall	2007 rainfall compared to average	Comment
Masterton	n/a	930 mm	n/a	561 mm	60%	No long-term records available
Tanawa Hut (Eastern Wairarapa)	1956	1300 mm	830 mm in 1998	1007 mm	77%	Maybe 6 th driest on record

1.2 Rivers

Due to the low rainfall, most rivers of the region had below-average flows for the November. The exceptions were the Kapiti Coast rivers. Significant rainfall in the Tararua Range on 4 November resulted in high flows through the Kapiti rivers; this 'fresh' and following recession meant that the average flow for the month was above average. However, by the end of the month, flows in all rivers of the region were low for the time of the year.

November 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow November 2007	Long-term average for November	Percentage of long-term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	5.58 m ³ /s	5.27 m ³ /s	106%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	13.9 m ³ /s	27.8 m ³ /s	50%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.52 m ³ /s	0.92 m ³ /s	57%
Waiohine River at Gorge	16.1 m ³ /s	27.9 m ³ /s	58%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	39.9 m ³ /s	78.4 m ³ /s	51%

Due to the low rainfall in December 2007, rivers of the region had lower than average flows for the month. The average December flows in the monitored rivers were as low as 20-30% of 'normal' for December and most rivers had the lowest average December flow on record. By the end of the month, many rivers of the region were about at their mean annual low flows. Although not exceptionally low, this is low for the time of the year. Often, mean annual low flow levels are not experienced until February or March.

December 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow December 2007	Long-term average for December	Percentage of long-term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	1.37 m ³ /s	5.25 m ³ /s	26%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	6.0 m ³ /s	25.8 m ³ /s	23%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.23 m ³ /s	0.83 m ³ /s	28%
Waiohine River at Gorge	8.0 m ³ /s	26.9 m ³ /s	30%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	19.8 m ³ /s	70.6 m ³ /s	28%

2. Floodwarning

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

In November two events triggered four river alarms in the Western part of the Region. There were no events in December.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was blocked for 18 days during November and December. Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were around the target levels during November but below in December.

3. Groundwater levels

3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the Hutt aquifer have dropped from above average at the beginning of the period to below average through December. The aquifer warning level was reached in mid-December, albeit for a short time, when the Gear Island well field was pumped during network maintenance.

3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels in the Kapiti aquifers continue to cause concern. Our monitoring bore in Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast remains around long term minimum values. Groundwater levels in our deep confined monitoring bore in Waikanae are below average but above long term minimums.

3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Groundwater levels in the Wairarapa have moved during the period to some of the lowest readings on record. This reflects the dry period with low rainfall and river recharge to aquifers, and high irrigation demand. With the trend in groundwater levels shallow boreholes in some areas, for instance Te Ore Ore, are expected to go dry. Reports have come in that this is happening.

4. Air quality monitoring

4.1 National environmental standard for air quality

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in November or December in any of the region's monitored airsheds.

5. Water quality

5.1 Recreational water quality monitoring

Weekly water quality monitoring commenced at 100 popular beach and river bathing sites in November and will continue until the end of March. Results of testing are uploaded to the website as soon as they are received; these are displayed on a map using the 'traffic light' red, orange and green system to denote the level of risk of contacting waterborne diseases when swimming.

5.2 Toxic blue-green algae

Warnings about increased growths of mat-forming toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in the region's rivers were issued in the media and on Greater Wellington's bathing website in mid-late December. Continued warm weather and stable flows over the holiday break resulted in many of these mats becoming exposed in shallow waters and on the banks along parts of the Hutt River. Two dogs died after coming into contact with these mats near Avalon on New Years Day, and a third dog died two days later after being in the river at Silverstream. Health warning signs were erected by the relevant territorial authorities immediately following the first dog deaths, with warning signs also erected on the lower Waikanae River as a precautionary measure.

Heavy rain over 7-8 January was successful in flushing the mats from the main recreational rivers in the western region. However, Regional Public Health and local councils have left warning signs up, as continued warm summer weather is likely to see a return in algal mats. Greater Wellington is working with these agencies to monitor algal growth and educate the public about the risks of blue-green algae. This includes completion of a leaflet for distribution to dog owners, vets and doctors and assistance with improving existing warning signs. Greater Wellington, through its science and research fund, is also supporting an MSc student at Victoria University conducting research into blue-green algae in the Wellington region.

5.3 Didymo

We are now responsible for surveillance and monitoring for didymo in the region. This responsibility has been passed from Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) to regional councils, with BNZ providing 'seed funding' for the remainder of the 2007/08 financial year to aid this transition.

We have carried out the first round of sampling under the new programme with no didymo being found in any of the rivers sampled. (Hutt River, Orongorongo River, Otaki River, Waikanae River, Ruamahanga River (3 sites), Tauherenikau River, Waingawa River and the Waiohine River.)

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – February 2008

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 10 November 2007 to 11 January 2008 we have received 96 consent applications. This compares with 133 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 89 consents. This compares with 120 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) was 16 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year from 1 July stands at 15 (dropping by one since November). We have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent applications, and enforcement activity by the consents and compliance teams remain high. Bore permit numbers have risen to a moderate level over the period.

Notified and limited notified consents are discussed in section 4, and a summary of those consents already notified or served on affected parties is also attached for information.

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Appeals

Masterton District Council (MDC) – Castlepoint Coastal Protection

Following earlier mediation and a subsequent lengthy period of limited progress, we have received and provided preliminary comments on the proposed Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP). We will be meeting with MDC to discuss a number of matters around the range of options proposed for coastal management in the Stage 2 area at Castlepoint.

This is an appeal by MDC against a decision on applications for a coastal protection sea wall at Castlepoint. Stage 1 of the sea wall was approved subject to conditions, and the appeal against some aspects of this part of the project was resolved in 2005. Stage 2 of the sea wall was declined.

Other ongoing appeals

- **Waterfront Investments Limited – Hilton Hotel:** Constructing and operating a Hilton Hotel on Queens Wharf Outer-T, Wellington. Awaiting decision from the Environment Court.
- **Wellington City Council/Capacity – Western Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Continued operation of Western Water Treatment Plant including discharges to the Karori South Coast and Karori Stream. Mediation to recommence in February.
- **A J Barton – Scadden’s Stopbank:** Appeal to the High Court regarding the Environment Court’s decision to uphold the decision on GW Flood Protection’s application to upgrade Scadden’s stopbank, Ruamahanga River, South Wairarapa. Continuing discussions to resolve a range of key matters which avoid a High Court hearing.

2.2 Objections

Currently there are no objections before us.

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 General

There are no general matters to report to this meeting.

3.2 Specific compliance

Substantive works continue on **Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind** – turning the location into reputedly New Zealand’s most extensive construction site. Staff are inspecting the site weekly and are reporting generally satisfactory progress with overall compliance.

We will shortly be embarking on the first part of our community monitoring programme for lead discharges beyond the boundary of **Exide Technology’s** Petone plant, as part of our commitment through the Environment Court’s 2006 decision on Exide consent review. The monitoring will involve sampling total suspended particulates at two sites outside Exide’s boundary over a period from late February to late May annually. The method and timeline will closely align to our 1999-commissioned study thereby providing an important comparison over time. It is disappointing that we have not been able to initiate this monitoring earlier, however I do not believe the loss of one year’s data (effectively four months data) will have a significant impact on our ability to gauge any potential community health risk. Importantly, Exide themselves have been conducting TSP monitoring at different sites as a requirement of their resource consent. Furthermore the most critical monitoring indicating potential community impacts continues to be the lead-in-air site boundary monitoring - in place since August 2006. Meanwhile Exide’s most recent breach of the site boundary limits is discussed in section 3.7.

Dry conditions through Wairarapa’s spring has led to the earliest introduction of **Wairarapa water restrictions** on consented surface water takes in the

Upper Ruamahanga, Waingawa and Carterton areas. Most of these restrictions were lifted just prior to Christmas and rainfall since has enabled many of the takes to remain restriction-free, so far. We have announced general restrictions and warned the community of possible more substantial restrictions in press-releases prior to Christmas. The management of the issue has been shared with Ted Taylor's team given the numerous overarching resource investigations, science and regulatory issues involved.

3.3 Abatement notices

We have issued 9 abatements in the last period (compared to one for the previous period), covering stream restoration works and illegal takes.

Abatements are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.15).

3.4 Infringement notices

We have issued five infringement notices in the last period (compared to one for the previous period), for breaches of abatement notice requirements, offensive and objectionable odours and illegal burning.

- ***Living Earth Limited (LEL)***: An infringement notice has been issued to LEL – the greenwaste-sewage sludge composting facility at Carey's Gully, Wellington – for the 19 September odour incident. The odours were confirmed as offensive and objectionable by two of our Pollution Control staff. This is a significant action – given that it is the first time LEL have been infringed, and indeed the first time we have been able to connect and confirm offensive odours received in residential areas beyond Carey's with a specific source at the site itself.

Infringements are detailed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.15).

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Two prosecutions and three sets of enforcement order applications are currently before the Court. A number of orders are currently being implemented.

Capital Egg, Peter Van Dyk, Alan Hobbs and Te Kamaru Station

This case, involving a prosecution with connected enforcement orders, has progressed rather quickly in the Court during the last six weeks. The prosecution concerns charges against four parties for illegally dumping chicken manure, chicken carcasses and eggs in a gully head on Te Kamaru (Terawhiti) Station resulting in a direct discharge of manure into a tributary of Oteranga Stream. Eight charges (between four parties) had been laid in total for discharging from a trade premise to land and discharging to water.

As reported at the December committee, we lodged, together with two of the parties an agreed joint memorandum with the Court for enforcement orders (covering monitoring, riparian planting and physical mitigation of the discharges). The Court is currently hearing the case with a final hearing session

set down for 11 February, and our first fully defended hearing for some time (parties defending charges laid against them). The Judge has commented that the level of offending here was at the serious end of the scale. The Court has also taken the interesting step of asking the defendants to put forward a proposal for additional restitution in the local area (to be then considered by the Court in the nature and level of sentencing). The 'offer' made to date and the associated terms are unsatisfactory and we have asked the defendants to provide a revised proposal.

Cardno TCB (TCB) - discharges from James Cook Drive subdivision development

The case relates to a breach of consent conditions involving the failure to implement a stream mitigation plan in a tributary of Duck Creek at the James Cook Drive subdivision site in Whitby. The mitigation plan was designed to minimise adverse effects to stream aquatic life. Charges were laid with the Environment Court on 20 September, and only involving the consent holder's consultant.

The second call on this prosecution occurred on 17 January 2008 without a position being offered by TCB, in which case a one month adjournment has been sought (which we have not opposed). We expect defendant will make significant progress towards a plea being entered.

J Gabites

This case relates to enforcement orders against J Gabites farm in Mangaroa Valley for ongoing discharges from pig effluent deposited around the property and earthworks to tributaries of Mangaroa River.

Mediation to date has yielded frustratingly slow progress but we are now at a point where orders have been agreed (and currently being drafted) requiring monitoring of nutrient levels in surface and groundwater for a further year. Any nutrient monitoring results above background levels may see us consider further action.

Brooklyn Holdings, Lance James and 318 Ohiro Road

This concerns two sets of enforcement orders covering erosion sediment control requirements (to prevent excessive sediment discharges to Owhiro stream), and stream and riparian reinstatement at two subdivision developments in Brooklyn.

The works required by the orders have not been implemented despite repeated communication with the land owners. We are now considering further enforcement options in view of a serious failing in meeting timelines.

3.6 Take Charge

The *Take Charge* programme has continued to focus on the Grenada industrial area over the last quarter. We are continuing to work through a programme of

revisiting 32 of the 62 initial businesses visited, and considered to pose a medium to high risk to the stormwater network and Takapu Stream.

We have received twelve enrolments for the *EnviroSMART* business programme, and have completed eight audits of the businesses involved. It has been positive to see that one of the sites from Granada North has also elected to participate in the *EnviroSMART* programme - a pleasing outcome.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed further in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.15).

3.7 Significant incidents

Significant incidents of particular note for Greater Wellington centre on air discharges and water takes including:

- ***Exide Technologies – lead in air discharges:*** The latest breach in lead in air across the southern – Waione Street – boundary resulted from a spike in discharges during one week in November resulting in an elevated result for the three-month-to-November period of 1.63 ug/g (boundary limit is 1.5). Exide brought out experts from the United States parent company to the site over the new year period to investigate the incident and are currently retesting the latest results. We have sought an explanation from Exide (expected now in mid February – after we recently granted an extension), and they will also provide results of sample retesting to validate the original results. The incident has generated considerable interest and coverage from newspaper, radio and television media, and the process to date has also included discussions between the Council chair and Environment Minister, Trevor Mallard. The incident is extremely disappointing particularly coming hot on the tail of their recent prosecution in the Environment Court.
- ***Alister Smith – taking water and wetland disturbance:*** This concerns an incident from December where a pond was constructed in a wetland area to take water for crop irrigation. We issued an abatement notice to ensure any further taking of water ceased, and are currently investigating the incident and awaiting a formal explanation from Mr Smith.
- ***Supreme Automotive Refinishers:*** Offensive and objectionable levels of odour from spray painting solvents and other related chemicals were detected at Supreme Automotive Refinishers – a paint shop in Bentley Street, Masterton on 17 December. Our investigations of this incident follow numerous complaints, monitoring and investigations throughout the year. We have met on numerous occasions with local residents and the paint shop owners, and recently conducted monitoring of spray painting discharges to determine whether the operators comply with our Regional Air Quality Management Plan rules. The residents' issues have been reported heavily in the local media. I have also visited local residents and I am determined that we resolve the issue to ensure that the operators are indeed complying with regional rules.

Other significant incidents for unconsented activities for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 08.15).

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

Masterton District Council (MDC) - Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant

These applications are to discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River at Homebush, and to land in the general vicinity of Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Following submissions and an informative and well-attended pre-hearing meeting in early November, Masterton District Council (MDC) decided in December (in full committee) to change tack on existing applications deferring a hearing to later in 2008.

MDC will build new properly engineered ponds in a location less exposed to flooding and erosion from Ruamahanga River at the Homebush site, and at the same time open up more land to land-based effluent disposal during drier periods. Treated effluent would continue to be discharged to the Ruamahanga River as well.

The outcome is pleasing in that MDC will now be able to put up a more robust revised proposal, and at the same time deal more closely with a host of technical issues that will benefit from the additional time for discussion and assessment with us.

The latest developments have been reported thoroughly through the local media.

WCC/Capacity: United Water International sludge dewatering plant

These are WCC/Capacity's replacement applications for the sludge dewatering plant at the Carey's Gully Complex.

At the last Committee meeting I reported on the outcome of the pre-hearing meeting including concerns expressed by the participants about the ongoing odour problems experienced in the surrounding residential area. The participants had asked the applicant to address the overall issue in a more integrated manner, and requested further information from GW (including the possibility of reviewing other consented activities at Carey's, and our rationale for and approach to odour monitoring).

Both WCC and GW will report back to a second pre-hearing meeting in late February or March. The context for the second pre-hearing took a sudden turn in December with WCC announcing that LEL's contract to compost sewage sludge at the Carey's facility will not be renewed in a year's time. This will

impact both on the current applications and may significantly change the landscape for odour management at Carey's for the benefit of the surrounding community.

Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)

A hearing has now been set down to commence on 18 February and likely to last two weeks.

These are applications for the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and Clyde Quay Wharf, including building a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking. The proposed development also includes structural strengthening of the Clyde Quay Wharf, wharf public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end.

The development bears many similarities to the Hilton proposal in its scale and significance for Wellington's waterfront (and thus public profile) and will once again be considering a range of district planning matters (traffic management, urban design, heritage, public amenity, noise and wind effects) in our assessment.

WCC/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

These are replacement applications from WCC/Capacity for ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, including discharges of treated and semi-treated effluent (mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened) to Cook Strait via the long outfall, and discharges of odours associated with the effluent treatment process. General issues historically have related to past odours from the plant, discharge quality and the location of the main discharge to the south coast at Moa Point.

The hearing was held on 10-12 December, and a decision due on 23 January. I will verbally report on the decision at the 5 February meeting.

O'More Partnership

We are completing assessing aspects of a revised proposal to limit the scale and location of both the proposed cleanfilling and associated stream works (including piping and reclamation). The hearing initially set down for February appears as if it will be delayed to enable Porirua City Council (PCC) to attain further information (traffic effects related).

This is a proposal to construct and operate a cleanfill near Judgeford which is being considered jointly with PCC. The activities include associated discharges from the construction and operation as well as stream piping.

Other notified applications active during the last period include:

- ***Stronvar Properties Ltd:*** Developing a 56 lot residential subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton. On hold for further information.

- **Webstar:** Replacement applications for air discharges associated with continuing printing operations, Masterton. On hold pending outcomes of further proactive monitoring.
- **Winstone Aggregates Ltd:** Extending quarrying activity at Belmont Quarry, Lower Hutt. On hold for further information.
- **Greater Wellington Flood Protection Department:** Replacement applications to spray diquat and manually clear weed from Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt. Submissions received on 18 December.
- **Kelson Heights limited:** A 143 lot subdivision in Kelson, Lower Hutt. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification with HCC.
- **T & T Landfill:** An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification with WCC.
- **Carrus:** Aotea Block, Porirua – Stage 9. Further information needed prior to making notification decision.
- **South Wairarapa District Council:** Greytown wastewater treatment plant. Being assessed for completeness for notification.
- **Juken Nissho Limited:** Air discharges from their Waingawa plant. Being assessed for completeness for notification.
- **Masterton District Council:** Masterton Landfill closure. On hold awaiting further information prior to notification.

Limited Notified

M B & H F Herrick

This is a replacement (renewal) consent application to take groundwater for irrigation in the vicinity of Taumata Oxbow Wetland, a significant Wairarapa wetland. The application was limited notified (served on affected parties, although effects not considered potentially significant) in 2006, and submissions received all concerned possible adverse effects on surrounding wetland areas. The applications were placed on hold since October 2006 to enable further monitoring of the water take to gauge potential impacts on the Taumata wetland (now concluding, although the submission of other information has been unacceptably slow), and two pre-hearings were held late in 2007.

As you will already know, Neil Hayes, a neighbour and opposed submitter has written an open letter to various media, key senior GW staff and Councillors, and a number of national politicians. The Wairarapa Times-Age and TV3 picked up the letter.

We will be assessing final monitoring information to determine the level of actual and potential effect before proceeding to a hearing in the near future.

KCDC - Western Link Road (WLR) – Section 5

Section 5 spans part of the alignment between Otaihanga and Te Moana Road in Waikanae – arguably the most difficult part of the project with iwi land owner, wetland and Waikanae bridge crossing issues to deal with.

The application was limited notified in October 2007 and we received five submissions – with two in opposition (including NZ Historic Places Trust). Concerns raised include the road encroaching on a registered wahi tapu site, and adverse effects on water quality and flood conveyance. We have also engaged a wetland expert to assess complex wetland effects.

No date has been set for a hearing.

Other notified applications active during the last period include:

- ***Kintyre Trust:*** Operation of a medium-sized rendering plant facility, Gladstone. On hold pending further information.
- ***Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept:*** Global consents for structures and stream bed works in Waitohu Stream, Otaki. Applicant is resolving concerns with submitters.
- ***Te Waka Water Co Ltd:*** Taking groundwater for irrigation, Kapiti Coast. Currently working through issues with a single submitter.
- ***Hutt City Council:*** Wainuiomata River gravel extraction and river realignment. On hold pending further information.

4.2 Upcoming consent applications

South Waitohu Stopbank: A proposed 780 m stopbank adjacent Mangapouri Stream in Otaki.

Lincolnshire Cleanfill: A large cleanfill proposed for the Lincolnshire Farm area north of Newlands.

Westchester Drive Extension: A roading project connecting to the current Mark Avenue extension, north of Newlands.

Puketiro Windfarm: We anticipate applications for a 40-plus turbine windfarm in the Puketiro forest area will be lodged later in the year.

4.3 Other applications

Neptune Power - Tidal Energy Turbine

There has been no further progress on the Neptune Power's application as they seek to resolve issues with affected parties.

Taylor Preston Limited (TPL) – Upgrading Rendering Plant

This application awaits an independent peer review by Roger Cudmore or Aurora Pacific to determine if the proposed modifications can in fact address most of the existing odour issue.

4.4 Department projects

Resource management charging policy

The Department is again reviewing the existing charging policy with a focus on air discharges and the current charge-out rate. The process will be joined onto the Council's annual plan process.

Muddy Waters and Small Streams travelling road show

Following on from recent workshops the core *Muddy Waters* team have developed and successfully rolled out a refined presentation package to present to individual consultancies – visiting two to date. This approach enables us to target the package to suit specific needs as well as covering issues that we want to increase traction on. Our session with Cardno TCB, for instance, focussed particularly on improving information quality at consent stage and communication in compliance as a pre-cursor to avoiding enforcement (see section 3.5). The sessions are proving highly successful not only because of feedback at the time and an opportunity to further build relationships, but also because we are seeing results on the ground (thus excellent bang for buck in terms of time invested).

Ministry for the Environment (MfE) investigation of costs of compliance

GW along with three other Councils (Marlborough District, Manawatu District and Wellington City) have participated in MfE's trial investigation of the costs of consent processing for business. The investigation has sought to identify the costs associated with processing consents including application processing costs, consultants and staff costs for applicants and costs imposed by unforeseen conditions.

In terms of outcomes MfE found that processing costs were not as significant as expected by participating consent holders. However the study revealed little else in terms of clear patterns. MfE found that it was difficult to gauge impact on costs of 'holding time' (costs incurred by delays in the process), additional work and process created by third parties (e.g. affected parties), or costs of unforeseen conditions.

In developing the pilot-study into a full nationwide study, I believe the Ministry faces a significant challenge in attempting to accurately quantify and assess the impact of these costs on business. In many respects these costs are simply 'part of the process' (and indeed good and necessary process), and there is a danger in promoting such costs as a direct adverse impact on business where other 'research and development costs' are not.

Notified and limited notified consents – in progress

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
South Wairarapa District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donald's Creek, Featherston,	13/05/97		9	12/12/03	Hearing delayed as applications on hold			
Stronvar Properties Ltd	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton.	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Hearing delayed as applications on hold.		-	-
Capital and Coast District Health Board WGN060332	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fired boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06	3	18/08/06	No hearing required.		-	Granted 24/12/2007. Still within the appeal period.
Webstar (Blue Star Print Group Limited)	To discharge particulates and other contaminants to air from three heatset lines, driers and thermal oxidisers associated with printing operations, Ngaumutawa Rd, Masterton.	08/02/07	22/02/06	2	8/5/07 8/11/07	Further investigations into odour concerns completed. Hearing to be scheduled.			
G & W Bugden (O'More Partnership)	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc discharges) , Judgeford, Porirua	12/12/06	2/5/07	13	31/5/07	Date to be set once further info 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
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified)	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	20/12/06 15/02/07	Awaiting details from HCC of application modification.	-	-	-
M B & H F Herrick (Limited Notified)	Replacement consent applications to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	8/09/06	4	24/10/06 30/10/07	Hearing delayed as applications on hold – currently seeking clarification from applicant about further info requested.	-	-	-
Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/4/07	13/7/07	95	16/10/2007 Second pre-hearing to be held, Mar 08	On hold at applicant's request to prepare response for 2 nd pre-hearing.			
Winstone Aggregates Ltd	To pipe and reclaim 4 intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	7/5/07	10/7/07	24	30/8/07	On hold pending supply of further information & peer review of dust management			
Kintyre Trust (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air from a rendering plant at Gladstone, east of Carterton	28/5/07	27/7/07	2	9/8/07	Hearing delayed as application on hold – applicant responding to issues raised at pre-hearing meeting and in submissions			

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
Masterton District Council	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton	16/5/07	1/8/07	69	12/11/07	Provisional hearing dates 31 March – 4 April 2008 – to be confirmed	Cr Baber, Miria Pomare, Rob Van Vorthuysen		
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept	To construct structures and undertake works including gravel extraction in the Waitohu Stream and associated stream bed disturbance	10/05/07	22/06/07	2		Applicant currently negotiating with submitters			
Wellington City Council WGN080003	Discharge of treated wastewater and intermittent discharge of non treated wastewater to the CMA, occupation of the seabed by a pipe, discharge to air from Moa Point ventilation system.	2/07/07	15/08/07	15		Hearing held 10-12 December. In deliberations.	Chris Turver (Chair), Cnr Donaldson, Elizabeth Burge (iwi appointee), Richard Heerdegen (DoC appointee)		
Capital Wharf Limited & Wellington Waterfront Limited WGN060332	Coastal permits required for the redevelopment of the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and Clyde Quay Wharf, Wellington.	19/09/07	12/11/07	199		Hearing scheduled to commence 18 -28 Feb.			
Te Waka Water Co Ltd WGN060297 (Limited notified).	To take and use water from an existing bore (R25/5208) in the Kapiti groundwater and domestic supply and irrigation purposes	19/04/06	10/01/08	1					

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours Department

Harbours Department Report – February 2008

1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution

Three reports of oil spills were received and investigated during this period, but none required further action.

Harbours Department conducted an oil-spill-response table top exercise on 6 December 2007, which included input from Mobil Kaiwharawhara, SGS and a representative from the National Oil Spill Response Centre.

3. Harbour Hulks

On 2 December 2007 the prepared hulks of *James Cook* and *Szap8* received all required approvals and were towed from Miramar Wharf and scuttled in Cook Strait in 1,700 metres of water.

On 4 December 2007, the hulk of *Atlantic Elizabeth* was moved from adjacent to Te Papa to Miramar Wharf for final preparations for scuttling (scheduled for the end of January 2008).

4. Events

The Manager Harbours and Deputy Harbourmaster attended a pre-Search & Rescue Exercise meeting at the National Rescue Co-ordinating Centre (NRCC) on 21 November. (The NRCC is planning a ferry incident training exercise in April 2008 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the sinking of *Wahine*).

The Deputy Harbourmaster attended a working group to discuss the MoT Port and Harbour Safety Discussion paper on 22 November 2007.

The Manager Harbours attended the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee meeting on 29 November 2007 at Massey and the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum in Auckland on 4 December 2007.

An additional temporary “Summer” Harbour Ranger was employed from mid-December to assist with the monitoring of recreational boating activities.

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
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept	Replacement consent to spray diquat to control aquatic weeds and for the manual and mechanical clearance of aquatic weeds and obstructions in Waiwhetu Stream.	5/11/07	18/12/07	6					
Kapiti Coast District Council (Limited Notified) WGN080150	To undertake various activities associated with the construction of Section 5 (Otaihanga Rd to Te Moana Road) of Western Link Road	9/10/07	7/12/07	5					