

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – November 2008

1. Draft Regional Policy Statement - update

Two Councillors' workshops were held in October to discuss submissions and recommended amendments for the proposed Regional Policy Statement.

Staff are implementing the actions and changes from the workshops and finalising the content of the proposed Regional Policy Statement. Updates will be communicated to Councillors through the Council Bulletin, with the intent of seeking approval to release the proposed document at the 8 December Council meeting. The proposed Regional Policy Statement would then be released early next year.

A workshop was held with Ara Tahi on the 4 November. Ara Tahi is comfortable with the changes being recommended. They confirmed that the title for chapter 2.7 should be 'Resource management with tangata whenua' rather than 'Resource manage with mana whenua'. Other matters discussed were whether or not more detail on how to 'avoid adverse effects on mauri' could be described or included and how 'cultural impact assessments' could be re-enforced as a means by which values of significance to tangata whenua could be identified in planning processes.

2. National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards - update

2.1 Proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation

As noted in the last report, Central Government has publicly notified a proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS). The purpose of the NPS is to set out objectives and policies to enable the sustainable management of renewable electricity generation under the Resource Management Act 1991. Greater Wellington's Regional Policy Statement and plans will need to give effect to the final NPS.

A copy of the draft submission was included in the Bulletin on 24 October for feedback. Greater Wellington's submission was then lodged with the Board of Inquiry on 31 October.

In summary, Greater Wellington's submission:

- Queried the focus on 'renewable electricity generation' as opposed to 'renewable energy generation' as outlined in the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy 2007.
- Outlined concern that the proposed NPS contained a number of policies that did not make it clear how they are to be given effect to and/or deal with matters outside the scope of resource management decision making.
- Noted that it was difficult to see what the proposed NPS would achieve over and above what already exists, or could reasonably be expected to be provided for. To reinforce this, a copy of the energy and infrastructure policies, from the draft Regional Policy Statement (developed without an NPS on renewable electricity generation), were provided.
- Sought that consideration be given to the use of section 55 (2A)(b) of the Act, where a national policy statement can direct that specific provisions be included in a document, without notification or hearing. As currently draft the NPS would require changes to the Regional Policy Statement and plans in 2012 using the full Schedule 1 process (of submissions, further submissions, hearings and potential appeals).
- Raised concerns about the unnecessary and costly duplication of effort through requiring changes to both regional policy statements and plans. The submission noted that they had different functions and sought that the policies target these differing roles.
- Requested that the final NPS be accompanied by an implementation plan specifying the priorities for implementation and further guidance on responsibilities

A Board of Inquiry has been appointed to inquire into and report on the NPS. Members of the Board are Dr Royden Somerville, QC (Chair), Geraldine Baumann (Member), Dr Ralph Chapman (Member) and Wira Gardiner (Member).

2.2 Proposed National Policy Statement for freshwater management

This proposed national policy statement was publicly released on 20 October 2008. Staff are preparing a submission, which will be reported to the 8 December Council meeting. Submissions close on 23 January 2009.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – November 2008

1. Hydrological monitoring

A summary of our rainfall, river and groundwater monitoring for October is set out in sections 2 to 5 below. This is based on the reports produced at the end of each month for inclusion on the Greater Wellington web site and for distribution with a media release. The full reports can be found at <http://www.gw.govt.nz/section2534.cfm>.

2. Rainfall and river flows

2.1 Rainfall

October 2008 was notable for stronger than normal northwesterly and southwesterly winds over New Zealand. Rainfall was well above average in the northwest of the Wellington region, particularly in the northern Tararua Range and Kapiti Coast. More than one metre of rainfall was recorded at our site 'Bannister Basin' in the Tararua Range; the long-term October average at that location is 0.6 m. However, Wellington City and the southern part of the region remained relatively dry for the time of the year.

A significant storm on 7 October caused high winds and heavy rain, particularly in the Tararua Range. In some places up to 30% of the month's rainfall was received during this storm. There was 422 mm in 12 hours at our site 'Angle Knob' in the Tararua Range – the heaviest rainfall at that location since monitoring began there in 1982. The event was also notable for 'spill over' rain that fell in the western Wairarapa foothills, and relatively significant floods resulted in the Ruamahanga River and its western tributaries.

Throughout the region we have generally received about, or more than, average rainfall for the time of the year. On the Kapiti Coast and in Wellington City rainfall has been 25-30% higher than average for the year to the end of October. We have also had significantly more rainfall than at this time last year.

2.2 Rivers

Flows in the major rivers of the Wellington region were generally above average for October, due to the high rainfall in the Tararua Range. The highest flows of the month occurred on 7 October, following very heavy rainfall in the range. The resulting floods were most significant in the Wairarapa, with estimated return periods of 3-5 years in the Ruamahanga River, six years in

Waipoua River, and three years in the Waiohine and Tauherenikau rivers. This was the largest flood in the Ruamahanga River since July 2006, and the largest in the Waiohine and Waingawa rivers since February 2004. Although high flows were also experienced in the Hutt and Kapiti Coast rivers on 7 October, the estimated flood return periods were less than two years. Nonetheless, it was the largest flood in the Hutt River during 2008 to date.

3. Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels started to decline in October from the annual 'highs' reached in many aquifers during later winter or early spring. In many shallow unconfined aquifers we recorded above average groundwater levels for this time of year. The high levels in these shallow aquifers are a result of above average rainfall during winter. Many deeper aquifers, which react more slowly to specific recharge events, are still tracking at or below the minimum levels on record.

3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the artesian Waiwhetu aquifer have been above average since May.

3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels recorded in the deep Waikanae aquifer remained around average throughout most of October. Water levels in shallow monitoring wells on the Kapiti Coast recovered in response to the wet winter.

3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

In the shallow rainfall and river fed aquifers of the Wairarapa groundwater levels have recovered from the low levels experienced over the summer. During October, water levels started to decline from the peak in September. However, in general water levels are still above average for the time of the year in the shallow aquifers.

Water levels have also recovered in the rainfall-recharged 'Martinborough Terraces' aquifer. This is the first significant recovery in groundwater level in this aquifer since the wet winter of 2006.

Groundwater levels in deeper confined Wairarapa aquifers are still to show a marked recovery.

4. Soil moisture

During October, soil moisture levels in the Wairarapa increased slightly from the decline in September. By the end of the month, soil moisture was significantly higher than at the same time last year.

5. Climate outlook

NIWA's climate outlook for November 2008 to January 2009 favours above average temperatures throughout the Wellington region, normal or below normal rainfall in Wellington and normal rainfall in the Wairarapa. Currently

the El Nino Southern Oscillation is neutral, indicating that neither El Nino nor La Nina conditions exist. Neutral conditions are likely to remain throughout summer 2008/09.

6. 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 October two events triggered river alarms in the Western part of the region, One alarm was triggered on 5 October and eight on 7 October.

Three events triggered river alarms in the Wairarapa; three alarms on 5 October, 18 on 7 October and one on 23 October.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was open during all of October.

Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were generally above or at the target level for the month.

7. Air quality monitoring

7.1 National environmental standard for air quality

There were no exceedances of the NES-AQ recorded during October 2008. Straight line paths depicting the decrease in PM₁₀ emissions required in Masterton and Wainuiomata in order to meet the NES-AQ by 2013 were approved at the last Regulatory Committee meeting.

7.2 Exide

A report on ambient concentrations of lead and arsenic in air in the vicinity of Exide Technologies Ltd's battery recycling operation in Petone was published.

8. Annual reporting

Annual reports have been produced summarising the results of our environmental monitoring for the 2007/08 year. These reports cover freshwater quality, groundwater quality and quantity, hydrology, coastal, air quality and soil quality. These reports, along with the recreational water quality report which was produced earlier in the year, form the basis of the annual state of environment report cards. The report cards are the subject of a separate report to the committee.

9. Project summary

We have completed two rounds of sampling in the Mangatarere Stream catchment as part of our targeted investigation of this area, including both surface water and groundwater. Preliminary surface water results support our view that the intense land use in this catchment is having a notable impact on

water quality. As this investigation proceeds we will be able to quantify the magnitude of this impact.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – November 2008

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 27 September to 24 October 2008 we have received 67 consent applications. This compares with 53 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 34 consents. This compares with 60 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) was 14 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year from 1 July drops one to 16 working days.

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

WCC (Wellington City Council)/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

Following the Environment Court's striking out of evidence of Wellington Recreational Marine Fishers Association (WRMFA), we are preparing a joint witness statement (with WCC) to be presented to the Court in late November. The Court will then make its recommendation to the Minister of Conservation.

This is an appeal by WCC regarding the decision on replacement applications for WCC/Capacity's ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant; including fully treated effluent discharge to Cook Strait; a mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened effluent discharge; and discharges of odour to air. Wellington Marine Fishers' Association, the Moa Point Community Liaison Group, Betty Weeber, Department of Conservation and the Breaker Bay and Moa Point Progressive Association also joined the process as a section 274 party (a party to the appeal proceedings). The appeal covers a wide range of matters including consent duration, monitoring and

reporting requirements, UV irradiation treatment requirements and pilot study reporting.

Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)

Following the first mediation on 29 August, the scope of the appeal has been narrowed, with the focus remaining on urban design, traffic, heritage and planning. Evidence will be exchanged between November and January, prior to 'evidence caucusing' in February and March. Caucusing is designed to enable the parties to limit the evidence being tabled in Court to focus on the more weighty issues, and putting aside evidence covering matters determined to be less critical. A Court hearing is likely in March 2009.

This is an appeal by Waterfront Watch against the hearing panel's decision to grant consents to redevelop the Overseas Passenger Terminal site at Clyde Quay Wharf. A number of section 274 parties have also joined the appeal, including Chaffers Marina Limited, Chaffers Marina Holdings Limited, John Spry, Grant Hodgson, Malcolm Small, Helene Ritchie, Tomas Huppert, Dennis Foot and John Moore.

The applications incorporated a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking, wharf structural strengthening, public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end. The applications incorporated modifications put forward at the hearing, including retaining more heritage elements, improved mitigation of construction effects on marina uses and additional provision for mariner services in the longer term.

Winstone Aggregates Limited – Belmont Quarry

Six appeals were lodged with the Environment Court regarding the joint decision by Hutt City Council and Wellington Regional Council granting consents for the proposed Overburden Disposal Area (OBDA). We are currently waiting for a date for the first call before the Court, to enable parties to clarify their respective positions and set a process for mediation.

Western Hills Environment Foundation Incorporated (a group comprised of submitters and members of the community), Martha Swanepoel, Rachael Ford, Chris and Sera Solomon, and Stephen Arthur have appealed the decisions made by both councils in their entirety and seek that the decisions be overturned.

The applicant has appealed one condition of the discharge to air permit (controlling the discharge of dust to air from the proposed OBDA).

The proposal to develop an OBDA involved applications to reclaim and pipe over 500 metres of ephemeral and intermittent stream channel, and control sediment discharges from the working sites, and discharges of dust to air.

Wellington City Council/Capacity - Western Wastewater Treatment Plant

A further mediation session on 13 October followed WCC's 'approval' of the outfall pipeline replacement within the next 15 years.

The parties agreed in principle to resolve matters subject to the appeals - including a mix of 15 year (discharges to Karori Stream) and 25 year consent durations (discharges to the Coast), although West Wellington Environmental Protection Society only supports a 15 year term for partially treated (milliscreened and settled wastewater) storm weather coastal discharges. A joint mediation agreement has been provided to the Court and we are now awaiting further instructions.

These are appeals against a decision (and recommendation to the Minister in regard to Restricted Coastal Activities) to grant consents to discharge treated effluent to the South Coast, and milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast (including discharges of odour).

Other ongoing appeals

- ***MDC – Castlepoint Coastal Protection:*** Proposed coastal protection sea wall (Stage 1 – resolved in 2005) and additional integrated measures (Stage 2) at Castlepoint. MDC have now finalised the Stage 2 Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP) options, which includes provision for a new low-level sea wall. They have sought input from the community on options and will confirm the ‘process’ for deciding on the preferred option, and are required to report back to the Court on 28 November.
- ***MB & HF Herrick (Herricks) – Taking groundwater adjacent Taumata Lagoon:*** Replacement (renewal) application to take groundwater for irrigation in the vicinity of Taumata Oxbow Wetland, a regionally significant Wairarapa wetland. The matter has been adjourned until 22 November to enable the appellant to continue to investigate other surface water sources at the property.

2.2 Objections

Currently there are no objections before us.

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 Specific compliance

Dairyshed Inspections: We have started our 2008/09 season of dairyshed inspections. I will keep the Committee informed of major items (both enforcement actions and good practice) as we progress through inspections over the next eight months.

3.2 Abatement notices

We issued eight abatements in the last period (same as for the previous period), for unauthorised discharges of contaminated stormwater, and stream works (requiring maintenance and ceasing works).

Abatement notices served are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.832).

3.3 Infringement notices

We have issued three infringement notices in the last period (down from 12 for the previous period), for:

- Breaching resource consent conditions in relation to the GW Flood Protection Department's river scheme maintenance works in Upper Ruamahanga River. Cross-blading (excavations across the entire width of the river bed) exceeded their annual limit. In relation to this breach we are working through a collaborative process with Flood Protection and NZ Fish and Game Council to clarify monitoring and reporting requirements and expectations.
- Other offences for which infringement notices were served include; breach of abatement notice requirements and unauthorised stream works.

Infringements issued are detailed in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.832).

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Three prosecutions are currently before the Court, up from the last period, with monitoring of performance occurring on a further two sets of enforcement orders.

Lloyd Raynor: illegal stream works and diverting wetland water

The first call-over in this prosecution on 3 November resulted in an adjournment following a request from the defendant to determine, in their view, whether the watercourse affected is in fact a bed of a stream or an artificial drain.

The prosecution resulted from 200 metres of watercourse adjacent to Lake Wairarapa (a nationally significant water body) being excavated, water being diverted from the Simmonds Lagoon (a Department of Conservation wetland), and the cull of hundreds of eels.

Lance James: failure to meet enforcement orders at Brooklyn Rise

Lance James and Brooklyn Rise were convicted on all charges (seven in total) of breaching enforcement orders at the sentencing hearing in late October. However, surprisingly Mr James escaped penalty for any of the convictions.

Mr James provided a statement of financial position for himself and Brooklyn Rise, indicating he had no personal assets yet sizable personal liabilities. The statement also indicated that Brooklyn Rise has no assets, is in liquidation, and is being pursued by the IRD for unpaid GST.

In light of the financial position, Judge Thompson considered that it would be pointless to impose a financial penalty, yet also rejected the proposal of community work considering such a penalty to be unduly harsh. However,

Judge Thompson did note that the offending was serious, and that substantial fines would have been imposed had the defendants been solvent.

This is a disappointing decision given the nature of the offences and the history of non-compliance at the Brooklyn sites.

The prosecution regarded the complete failure to meet basic requirements (provision of certain sediment control and re-vegetation plans, failure to meet general timelines also including stream reinstatement works) of enforcement orders affecting unconsented works at two separate subdivisions in Ohiro Rd, Brooklyn.

Masterton District Council (MDC) and Master Roads Services: taking water

A second 'call-over' took place on 28 October. Master Road Services has entered a guilty plea, and we are currently discussing the charges with MDC hoping to resolve outstanding matters relatively quickly.

This is a prosecution against Masterton District Council (MDC) and Master Road Services in relation to taking water from Ruamahanga River to Henley Lake in February 2008 during a period of water restrictions and one-in-seven year low flow in Ruamahanga River. A substantial volume of water was taken over two days following remedial works, and heated and algae laden water from Henley Lake was discharged back to Ruamahanga after lake levels became excessively high.

3.5 Take Charge

We are currently following up on the final set of audited Grenada North businesses to determine that they have completed recommendations.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed further in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.832).

3.6 Significant incidents

Significant incidents of note centre on discharges of sediment and dairyshed effluent. These incidents are covered in more detail in the Environmental Protection Report (report 08.832).

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

Assessment work remains reasonably solid with a large load of applications still in the early stages of process. No hearings are anticipated before the end of 2008, although half a dozen are expected before May 2009.

Meridian – Project Mill Creek

The panel's decision is expected around the end of 2008 on applications to establish a 31 turbine windfarm at Mill Creek (north of the lower Makara valley and estuary area).

Both GW and WCC officers recommended consents be granted subject to mitigation requirements (enhancing stream habitat, strengthened treatment of sediment discharges, and removal of 10 turbines).

Earlier, the GW officer's report recommended that a number of the consents to culvert and divert watercourses be granted, but reserved our recommendation on earthworks, discharges and stream piping and reclamation matters – subject to Meridian providing information on appropriately managing and 'offsetting' potentially significant effects. Meridian opted not to provide mitigation options to deal with the adverse effects from stream piping works.

The proposal involves applications to GW (nine separate applications) covering the culverting, piping and reclamation of streams, earthworks and discharges of sediment laden water (from over 800,000 cubic metres of earthworks to construct roads, fill sites and turbine platforms) to a number of water courses and eventually the Makara Stream and Estuary. The applications are being jointly determined together with Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council, and heard by a fully independent panel.

MDC – Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant

29 submissions were received on revised applications for replacement applications in relation to the Masterton Waste Water Treatment Plant. This is well down on the 69 received when the first set of applications were lodged in 2006. A hearing is being set down for early March 2009.

The applications involve discharging treated effluent to the Ruamahanga River at Homebush, including a new proposal to land in the general vicinity of Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant. These were deferred so that amended applications could be made to incorporate new ponds and additional land for land-based discharges/treatment. Revised applications were notified on 17 September.

Other notified applications active during the last period include:

- ***Waiwhetu Stream Remediation:*** Full applications from GW Flood Protection for remediation of Waiwhetu Stream, following on from the March 2008 trial-excavation consents. Applications lodged on 17 October and notified on 28 October.
- ***Kelson Heights limited:*** A 143 lot subdivision in Kelson, Lower Hutt. Further information was received and the applications notified on 25 October. Submissions are due on 28 November. Due to the extent of changes to the application to address further information requests the application is to be essentially resubmitted.

- ***T & T Landfill:*** An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn. Applications were notified on 23 October.
- ***Transpacific Technical Services:*** Discharges to air from an industrial and hazardous waste processing facility in Seaview. Applications were notified on 12 July, and seven submissions were received. On the request of Regional Public Health, a public health risk assessment is being prepared by the applicant to determine possible impacts of associated discharges on public health. The assessment is expected to be completed by late February.
- ***Carterton District Council:*** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Carterton wastewater treatment plant, lodged in October 2008 and waiting for further information.
- ***Juken Nissho Limited:*** Replacement applications for discharges contaminants from the woodwaste boiler, veneer driers and presses, and various kilns at their Waingawa, Masterton plant. Lodged in January 2008 with updated AEE provided in May. Applications were notified on 8 October.
- ***Stronvar Properties Ltd:*** Developing a 56 lot residential subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton. Outstanding issues remain with the treatment of wastewater, and the integrity of the proposed water supply and amenity dam – working through these with the applicant.
- ***South Wairarapa District Council:*** Replacement applications for discharges and upgraded treatment from the Greytown wastewater treatment plant, lodged in December 2007 and waiting for further information. A final decision on treatment options is expected in January 2009, prior to a revised AEE in March.
- ***Best Farms Ltd:*** A subdivision and associated activities including 300,000 cubic metres of earthworks over nearly 15 hectares, and stream reclamation, at Best Farms, Churton Park. Applicant providing further information.
- ***Hunter Hills Ltd:*** Earthworks to construct a car haulways area at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands. Applicant providing further information.
- ***Hunter Hills Ltd:*** A 100 lot subdivision and associated activities at Lincolnshire Farm, Newlands.
- ***Masterton District Council:*** Masterton Landfill closure. Awaiting further information prior to notification.
- ***Wairarapa Aggregates Limited:*** A proposed aggregate quarry and cleanfill operation, at Waingawa south of Masterton involving discharges of sediment and taking groundwater adjacent Wainagwa Wetland. Lodged in June 2008, and awaiting further information to be provided.
- ***JR's Orchards Ltd:*** Taking and damming water (Papawai Stream and local groundwater) associated with orchard irrigation, at Papawai, east of Greytown.
- ***C n D Landfill:*** Extension of the existing CnD demolition fill at Happy Valley, Wellington.

Limited Notified

Limited notified applications active during the last period include:

- ***Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) - Western Link Road (WLR) – Section 5:*** Section 5 spans part of the alignment between Otaihanga and

Te Moana Road in Waikanae. The application was limited notified in October 2007 and we received five submissions – with two in opposition. Key issues raised impacts on wahi tapu, water quality and flood conveyance and wetland effects. Peer review of wetland effects has identified gaps in KCDC's assessment, currently being addressed.

- **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, by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection. Lodgement pending.

Hutt River stopbank, Boulcott: Applications by Greater Wellington, Flood Protection to construct a new stopbank in the vicinity of Boulcott and Hutt Golf Courses. Lodgement expected later in 2009.

Kaitoke abstraction - GW Water Group: Applications to increase water abstraction from the Hutt River at Kaitoke (to lower the minimum flow from 600L/sec to 400L/sec).

Windflow: Establishing a 30 (approx) two-blade turbine windfarm at Long Gully, Wellington.

Westchester Drive: A roading project connecting the current Mark Avenue extension in North Newlands.

Wellington Waterfront Limited: Consents to authorise the existing use of structures within the CMA in the vicinity of Queens Wharf, and allow vehicle use around Shed 6.

Aotea Block Stages 10 and 11: Earthworks associated with subdivision at Aotea, Porirua.

Silverwood Stages 3 and 4: Earthworks associated with subdivision at Silverwood, Whitby.

J Burrell: Establishing a cleanfill at Eastern Hutt Road in the vicinity of Silverstream bridges.

Wellington International Airport Limited: Establishing a bitumen plant in association with runway safety extension work (north end).

4.3 Other applications

Taylor Preston Limited – upgraded rendering plant to reduce odour problems

Earlier in the year I reported that Taylor Preston Limited – the meat processing abattoir and rendering plant at Ngauranga – would be applying to change their resource consent enabling the construction of a new rendering plant. I am

pleased to report that applications have now been processed and the new rendering facility nearly completed.

The upgrade includes a new steam and heat generated treatment system, doing away with the old 'meal' drier and afterburner which were vulnerable to breakdowns and the generation of pungent odours. The new system is also fully sealed or ducted enabling all odours to be treated through the existing biofilter.

The process has involved Gorge Action Group in consultation throughout, and technical peer reviews of the proposed upgrade to ensure the best possible design outcome.

Other non-notified applications of note are discussed in report 08.849.

4.4 Department projects

Northern Growth Strategy

Many of our notified and larger non-notified earthworks applications affect the Northern Growth area of Wellington. The scale of proposed development, coupled with the number of applications to both GW and WCC are requiring a more coordinated process of vetting and communicating consenting work with the developers and WCC. The intent is to ensure we take a pragmatic, balanced and integrated approach to assessing new earthworks applications, against the backdrop of regional growth and likely impacts on Porirua Stream and harbour.

Notified and limited notified consents – in progress

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
South Wairarapa District Council WAR970080	To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donalds Creek, Featherston.	13/05/97		9	12/12/03	Hearing delayed as applications on hold. Updated AEE submitted in October 2008. Currently considering information provided.			
Davis Sawmilling Co Ltd WAR 040165 (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to land (which may enter water) associated with stormwater runoff from timber yard in Featherston.	29/11/04	Likely to serve notice on affected parties in October 2008. Awaiting Limited Notified application fee.						
Masterton District Council WAR 060047	To discharge contaminants to land and air associated with the operation of Masterton landfill, Homebush, Masterton.	30/03/06	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Stronvar Properties Ltd WAR 060160	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	-	Further information supplied late February 2008. Information externally reviewed and further response provided by applicant. Applicant has now requested for application to be placed on hold indefinitely.			
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified) WGN070019	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	HCC revising plans (reducing the scope of the works). Amended proposal to be submitted.	-	-	-
Wellington City Council WGN070230	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/04/07	13/07/07	95	16/10/07 Second pre-hearing held, 19/05/08	On hold at applicant's request to carry out trials of discharging sludge to land.	-		
Winstone Aggregates Ltd WGN080237	To pipe and reclaim four intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden	07/05/07	10/07/07	24	30/08/07	Hearing commenced on 12/05/08, reconvened on 12/06/08.	Cr Baber, Cr Bruce Christine Foster	02/09/08	Granted. Under appeal

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
	area, Belmont.								
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept (Limited Notified) WGN 070242	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		Negotiated outcome. Written approval from affected party received 05/08/08.		05/09/08	Granted
Masterton District Council WAR 070077	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton.	16/05/07	01/08/07	69	12/11/07	New applications lodged 20/08/08. These applications likely to be withdrawn following new consent process.			
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.	09/10/07	07/12/07	5		Peer review of wetland effects identified major gaps in applicant's assessment, which are currently being addressed. Resolution of issues raised by some submitters still outstanding.			

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Kelson Heights Ltd. WGN080187	143 lot subdivision	13/11/07	25/11/08				TBC		
South Wairarapa District Council WAR 080254	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Greytown wastewater treatment plant at Papawai, east of Greytown.	28/12/07	On hold for further information. Agreed to timeline for updated AEE to be submitted by 31/03/09.						
Juken Nissho Ltd WAR 080250	To discharge contaminants to air from woodwaste boiler, veneer driers & presses, kilns at Waingawa, Masterton.	29/12/07	06/11/08						
NZSF Timber Investments (No. 3) Ltd. (Limited Notified) Joint with PCC WGN080361	To undertake various activities associated with forestry logging, Flighty's Road, Pauatahanui.	07/03/08	20/05/08	3	Pre-hearing meeting held 31 July to address issues within PCC jurisdiction. No issues raised in submissions within GW jurisdiction.			18/09/08	Granted

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Mill Creek (Meridian) WGN080368	To undertake stream works, land disturbance, discharge contaminated storm water to land/water and contaminants to air in association with constructing roads, fill sites and platforms for the establishment of a wind farm.	12/03/08	16/06/08			Commencing week beginning 11/08/08	David Hill, David McMahon, Pamela Peters		
Transpacific WGN080440	To discharge contaminants to air from the operation of a liquid and hazardous waste processing plant.	23/04/08	08/08/08	7	On hold awaiting public health assessment. Pre-hearing meeting possibly in the new year.				
Best Farms Ltd WGN080494	Earthworks and reclamation of streams associated with sub-division activities, at Best Farms, Churton Park.	29/05/08 Application rejected (lack of information)							
Wairarapa Aggregates Ltd WAR 080518	To discharge stormwater from a gravel extraction and associated cleanfill operation	04/06/08	On hold for further information and consents. Yet to be notified.						

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
	to water.								
T & T Landfill WGN070260 (joint with WCC)	Discharges associated with the operation of a demolition fill.	14/06/08	21/11/08						
Hunter Hills Ltd WGN080520	Earthworks associated with new car haulaway area, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands.	17/06/08	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
Hunter Hills Ltd WGN090003	Earthworks associated with a 100 lot subdivision, at Lincolnshire Farms, Newlands.	03/07/08	On hold for further information. Yet to be notified.						
JR's Orchards Ltd WAR 080557	To take and dam water from the Papawai Stream and to take groundwater from a bore for irrigation purposes at Papawai, east of Greytown.	30/06/08	On hold for further information. Agreed to timeline for updated AEE to be submitted by 14/01/09.						
CnD Landfill WGN080462	Extension of construction and demolition fill.	04/08/08	On hold for further information and affected party approval.						

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held / Process Delay	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Masterton District Council WAR 090066	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton wastewater treatment plant at Homebush, east of Masterton.	20/08/08	15/10/08	29	Hearing likely to be held in February 2009.				
GW Flood Protection & HCC WGN090127 (joint with HCC)	Waiwhetu Stream remediation and channel widening and depending and erosion protection work.	17/10/08	25/11/08						

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – November 2008

1. Harbour navigation aids

A new safety rail was fitted to the upper level of Pencarrow lighthouse on 30 October. All other navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution

Two minor oil spills were reported during the period, but did not require any clean-up action.

3. Harbour events of interest

Lifejacket buoyancy testing was carried out at the Evans Bay Yacht & Motorboat Club, at T.S. Amokura Sea Cadets, and at the sea kayakers forum in early November. In total fifty-six lifejackets were tested, only one failed the test.

On 9 October the hulk of the fishing vessel Seafire left Miramar Wharf in tow, bound for the Bay of Plenty. On 19 October Seafire was scuttled by the Bay Artificial Reef Charitable Trust as a dive site off Whale Island, near Whakatane.

Pacifica Shipping's Wellington to Lyttelton service ended from 5 November, with their freight ferry Spirit of Competition for sale.

4. Meetings

Grant Nalder attended the AGM of the Waka Ama in early November to explain the proposed changes in the bylaws.

Grant Nalder spoke at the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club pre-season skippers briefing regarding harbour safety.

Grant Nalder also gave a presentation on safety and communications to the sea kayakers forum.

John Tattersall spoke at the Wellington rowing clubs opening day about harbour safety.