



caring about you & your environment

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Report to the Environment Committee
from Dr Jane Bradbury, Divisional Manager, Environment

Divisional Manager's Report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Environment Division and about any matters which have arisen since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Managers' Reports

The Department's Managers' reports, along with the report from the Divisional Accountant, are attached.

3. Information to Motivation - State of the Environment Conference 2001

The brochure for the above Conference is attached to this report and was also included in Councillors' Information Bulletin Issue No. 2001/21.

The Regional Council has sponsored this Conference. As Councillors will be aware the Environment Division has been looking at how we can improve the way in which we disseminate environmental information. Indeed the issue is a priority for the forthcoming financial year. Consequently this Conference is both timely and relevant.

Unfortunately the dates conflict with the Policy and Finance Sub-Committee meetings to hear submissions on the Annual Plan. The Council did not have any say in the date of the Conference - its timing was guided by World Environment Day.

In spite of the clash the Committee may like to decide whether any interested Councillors can attend the Conference. Council staff could be involved in some of the presentations.

4. **Draft Hutt Valley Floodplain Management Plan**

There is a separate report on this Plan from Councillor Buchanan resulting from a meeting that was held with the Landcare Division.

As an addition I have attached a memo that I wrote to Andrew Annakin, Divisional Manager Landcare, complimenting him on the standard of the Plan.

5. **Civil Defence Emergency Management**

As a member of the Local Government New Zealand Working Party that prepared the LGNZ's submission on the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill I met with Ministry staff to discuss their response to that submission. Although there have been some small movements, I was disappointed that they have not taken on board our comments on some of the bigger issues, particularly the Joint Committee.

We look forward to getting some new legislation and will just have to make the best of the situation.

6. **Environmental Education**

We are aware that considerable progress is being made with our environmental education work and that we need to let Councillors know what we are doing. Consequently we plan to give a presentation to all Councillors at the next meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee.

I know that Councillors have been invited to - and have attended - several events but I think it will be useful for you to see progress in all aspects of this work.

7. **Recommendation**

- (1) *That if the Committee feels it is appropriate it nominates Councillor(s) to attend the Information to Motivation Conference; and*
- (2) *That the reports from the Divisional Manager, the Department Managers and the Divisional Accountant be received.*

Report prepared by:

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attach: (2)

Regional Policy Statement Implementation Report

Geoff Skene, Manager

May 2001

1. Community Environmental Care Programme (Nigel Clarke; Jo Fagan; John Holmes; Tim Porteous; Trecia Smith; Ross Jackson; Olwen Narbey; Dave Cameron)

Good progress is being made with the care groups. All groups are working hard on their various projects. Some recent achievements are (in brief):

- Manuka Street Reserve, Masterton - plants purchased and three planting days set down for June;
- Greendale Reserve – a restoration plan is in preparation;
- Kaitawa Reserve, Paraparaumu – plants purchased and planted;
- Pukerua Bay – group working on a green waste mulching depot and a restoration plan;
- Fensham Reserve, Carterton - planting and building a sign;
- Otari – Wilton’s Bush Trust – blackberry and other weeds being sprayed by the Biosecurity Department;
- Waitohu Stream and Dune Care Group – gaining consent for and building a nursery;
- Moehou Park, Upper Hutt – contracted a design for the restoration;
- Pauatahanui Wildlife Reserve – obtaining professional advice for the design of the freshwater wetland;
- Coastal habitat restoration, Greta Point – still resolving consultation and consent related issues;
- Castlepoint Care Group – fencing and windbreak cloth purchased, planting to occur next month;
- Riversdale Beach Care Group – seeking a consent for rock protection, construction programmed for late May; and
- Queen Elizabeth Park wetland group – planting day on 23 June.

2. Waiwhetu Stream (Tim Porteous)

As indicated in earlier reports, one of the main problems which besets this stream is the contamination of sediments in the lower reaches. After being rejected by the national Sustainable Management Fund (for funds to investigate the degree of contamination), we allowed for a small investigation (\$10,000) of the problem in May – June from the budget allocation for the stream. However, due to an under spend in other parts of the Division, we have been able to allocate an additional \$20,000 to this project. This will allow for a number of additional sediment cores to be taken and analysed. Work is underway on the project.

Work is also underway on the other major component of this year's work, which is a landscape and ecological plan for the stream, similar to the drawings and plans in the Hutt River Environmental Strategy. The purpose of this is to provide an overall vision for developing and planting along the stream edge, and to stimulate the local community to participate in the rehabilitation of the stream.

We have also contributed \$3,000 to the cost of riparian planting on the Industrial Research Limited site at Gracefield. IRL have demonstrated a very high degree of responsibility for the stream, rehabilitating large portions of it as it flows through their campus. Their efforts are an example to other businesses in the area of what can be achieved. The site will be used as an advocacy tool, illustrating the costs and benefits of helping the stream to local companies. The Waiwhetu group will be writing to these businesses in due course. The plantings can be enjoyed by the public too, adding to the amenity along the bank.

3. **Kaiwharawhara Stream (John Holmes)**

Little additional progress has been made in recent weeks. We are still awaiting the landscape plan for the lower end of the stream. This contract is being managed by Wellington City Council.

4. **Wellington Region Ecological Restoration Network (Nigel Clarke)**

As I mentioned last time, staff from the Division are assisting the Department of Conservation to set up a network for community groups, local authorities, and others engaged in restoration projects to share their skills and experiences. There have been training and networking events held and a full "restoration day" will be held on 26 May 2001 for groups to meet and share experiences. Councillors are welcome to attend this event which will be held at the Tapu Te Ranga Marae in Island Bay. I will provide more details in the Councillors' Information Bulletin once these are finalised.

5. **Business Bridges Programme (Romae Duns)**

A key component of the Business Bridges programme, is to design a procedure to help businesses manage pollution on their premises. We intend that this will be offered as a service from the Council and a business management tool. The current title for the service is 'Take Charge', recognising that it will enable businesses to manage effectively this aspect of their operations, as well as help the environment. Romae has completed the resource kit that goes with the programme and it is now being tested by the Resource Quality Officers with businesses in the Rongotai area. Romae is also discussing it with industry representatives and has already received some very positive feedback on it.

We are also putting together a computer database which will help us track the businesses that participate in the programme.

6. **Branding for Environmental Education Programmes (Jo Campbell, Romae Duns)**

Over the last two months we have been re-examining the names of the environmental education programmes, which were set initially in the Council's education strategy. We have found that "Learnwell", and "Business Bridges" do not excite many people and that there is no real name for the programme which seeks to promote more sustainable ways of living. The names do not communicate the Council very well, nor do they get across the notion of "action", that individuals can do things that will help the environment and the quality of life in the Region, that runs through all of the education programme.

Consequently we have commissioned some research, using focus groups, to test an alternative set of programme names and associated brand images. We will report back on the results in due course. If we want people to buy into and adopt our ideas then we must be competitive in that market place. This requires strong and consistent branding which is founded on good research. We are aware of the Council's communication strategy and are attempting to be consistent with it. However, with the end of the year approaching, we have now reached the stage where our resources are nearly ready for printing, so branding issues need to be resolved.

In addition, the Learnwell web site is now being designed and constructed. This will provide fun ways for young people to learn about the environment and updates on how the trails are being used. It too, will benefit from the branding research.

7. **Riparian Management Strategy (Kirsten Forsyth)**

The Riparian Management Strategy is nearing completion and should be presented to the Committee at its June meeting. Kirsten is writing the strategy with the assistance of staff from across the Council.

Resource Policy Department Report Wayne Hastie, Manager

May 2001

1. Resource Management Act 1991 Amendments

There are currently four Resource Management Act 1991 amendments before Parliament.

The Resource Management (Costs) Amendment Bill is a Private Member's Bill in the name of Kevin Campbell (Alliance), although it was originally introduced by the Hon Sandra Lee late in 1998. The Bill was referred to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee who sought and heard submissions. The Bill is due to be reported back to the House on 8 May 2001. The Council made a submission but did not ask to be heard by the Select Committee.

The Resource Management Amendment Bill No. 313-1 was introduced by the Hon Simon Upton on 13 July 1999. The Bill was referred to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee who sought and heard submissions. The Bill is due to be reported back to the House on 8 May 2001, although it is possible for the Committee to seek an extension. The Council made a substantial submission on this Bill and Cr Buchanan presented the key points to the Select Committee.

The Resource Management (Marine Farming and Heritage Provisions) Amendment Bill is awaiting clause-by-clause consideration. This Bill consists of a number of provisions divided from the Resource Management Amendment Bill (No. 3), dating back to 1995, predominantly relating to marine farming. It has been before two Select Committees who have recommended that it proceed. However, the Bill has essentially been "parked" to await the outcome of a review of aquaculture management being conducted by the Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment. The Council did not submit on this Bill.

The Resource Management (Controlled and Discretionary Activities) Amendment Bill No. 118-1 was introduced on 29 March 2001. It is a Private Member's Bill from Owen Jennings (Act). The Bill has been set down for a second reading, but it is unclear when this will occur. It seems unlikely that this Bill will be referred to a Select Committee. Mr Jennings has previously introduced a Bill providing for consultation with landowners, but the Bill did not proceed past the second reading and therefore lapsed.

2. **Regional Plans (Murray McLea)**

The Council has resolved to proceed with consultation on changing the Transitional Regional Plan so it is withdrawn altogether, and making changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan. Staff will now commence consultation. Ara Tahī will be advised about the proposed changes at its meeting on 2 May.

As part of the process of removing the Transitional Regional Plan, we will be seeking legal advice on the possibility and merit of using bylaws promulgated under the Local Government Act 1974 to protect stopbanks, rather than rules in a regional plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

3. **Regional Plan Implementation**

3.1 **Silt Guidelines (Paul Denton)**

The consultants engaged to report on erosion and sediment control practices in the Porirua area have completed their report. The findings will be presented to the Committee as part of a separate report. We are currently looking at engaging the consultants to update the Council's sediment control guidelines which are dated and do not reflect current best practise.

3.2 **On Site Sewage Brochures (Kirsten Forsyth)**

Kapiti Coast District Council mailed out the "4 Helpful Hints" pamphlet dealing with on-site sewage systems in April. As happened in the Wairarapa, there was increased demand on the septic tank emptying contractors in the district, which is good news.

3.3 **Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray McLea)**

Work on freshwater ecosystems has commenced and is progressing well. There are five components to the current work programme:

- a study of whitebait spawning habitats;
- a study of freshwater fisheries;
- a study of freshwater ecosystem management;
- a report on freshwater structures in the Wairarapa; and
- a study of water races in the Wairarapa.

3.4 **Marine protection (Paul Denton)**

A workshop has been scheduled for 20 June to enable Councillors to discuss their vision for the Region's marine environment and to identify what role the Council might play in achieving that vision. We will be providing information on people's attitudes to the marine environment and on key issues identified by a group of experts. The workshop will be facilitated by Dr Glen Lauder from Commonground Associates Limited.

4. **Iwi matters (Keriana Wilcox)**

Progress continues to be made in a number of areas. The first Councillor training workshop was held on 4 April with a focus on the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. A second workshop on this topic will take place on 13 June.

The first Iwi technical workshop was held on 18 April and dealt with the consumptive use of water. The next workshop in this series is scheduled for 4 July and will deal with the management of water.

A revised proposal has been received from Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui to prepare an iwi environmental management plan. The iwi would like to commence this three-year project on 1 June 2001.

5. **Hazards (Roz Groves)**

Good progress continues to be made on the two contracted projects for this year. The first project deals with the identification of the hazards associated with the transport and storage of non-petroleum hazardous substances. The second project will report on the nature of the tsunami hazard and potential impacts in the Region, with an emphasis on the Wairarapa east coast settlements and the Kapiti Coast. We aim to report the findings to the Environment Committee in June.

6. **Staff**

Richard Jongens has commenced work in the position of Corporate GIS Officer. Richard was previously working for NIWA, most recently in Christchurch on river habitat classification. Richard will provide the principal centre of expertise for GIS within the Council.

Nicola Shorten has also joined the Department in the position of Policy Advisor. Nicola will be working on state of the environment reporting and joins us after spending three years as Local Agenda 21 Officer at Rochford District Council in England. Prior to that Nicola worked at Environment Waikato.

Resource Investigations Department Report John Sherriff, Manager

May 2001

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood Warning

Since the last meeting no severe weather bulletins have been received.

The following rainfall and river level alarms were received and responded to:

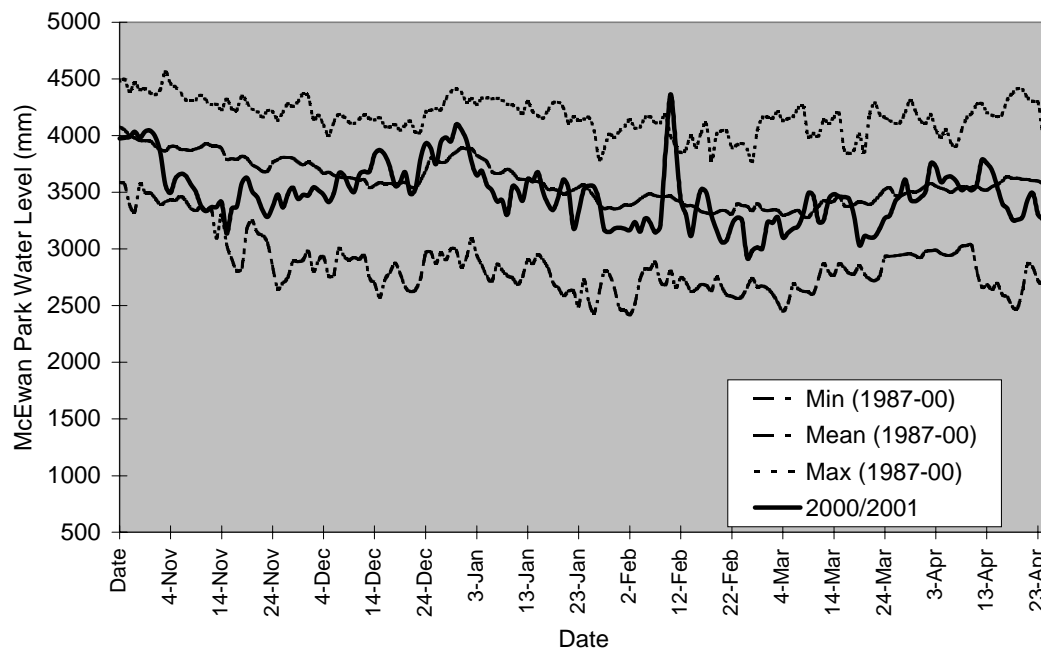
26 March	Heavy rainfall: Warwicks
27 March	Heavy rainfall: Taungata, Warwicks, Cemetery and Oriwa High flows: Otaki

2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater Levels

Waiwhetu Artesian Aquifer

Artesian pressure measured at the McEwan Park monitoring bore has been at average or below average levels since November 2000. Since mid April the pressure has dropped to below average levels in response to extensive usage by the Utility Services Division and reduced recharge from the Hutt River because of the recent drought conditions. Close attention is being paid to all monitoring sites in the Hutt Valley to avoid the threat of seawater intrusion.



Kapiti Coast

The recent drought conditions have caused groundwater levels in rainfall-recharged aquifers and aquifers in direct connection with rivers and streams to be well below average since January. Many monitoring sites are showing the lowest levels recorded since the sites were established in 1993. Deeper aquifers have been affected to a lesser degree and exhibit slightly below average water levels.

2.2 Rainfall and River Flows

The Region continues to be gripped by drought. Rainfall totals are still extremely low. Wellington City is the most affected area with less than 15 millimetres of rain falling during April (the average for the month is 100mm), and only 51 millimetres so far in 2001.

A significant feature during April was the very low rainfall in the Tararua Ranges. Usually rainfall in the ranges at this time of the year can be expected to be close to the average but during April less than 30 percent of normal rainfall occurred.

As a result river and stream flows are very low. The Waitohu Stream and Waikanae River are once again approaching the minimum flow levels set in the Regional Freshwater Plan. The Water Shortage Directions issued for these two waterways were lifted in late March after rain fell, but now flows are dropping again and low rainfall is predicted to continue for some time yet.

Figures 1 and 2 show the recorded flow at the Council's monitoring sites on the Waikanae River and Waitohu Stream in comparison with the monthly averages. Since the floods in October last year there has been very few "freshes" down the rivers and those that have occurred have been very short lived.

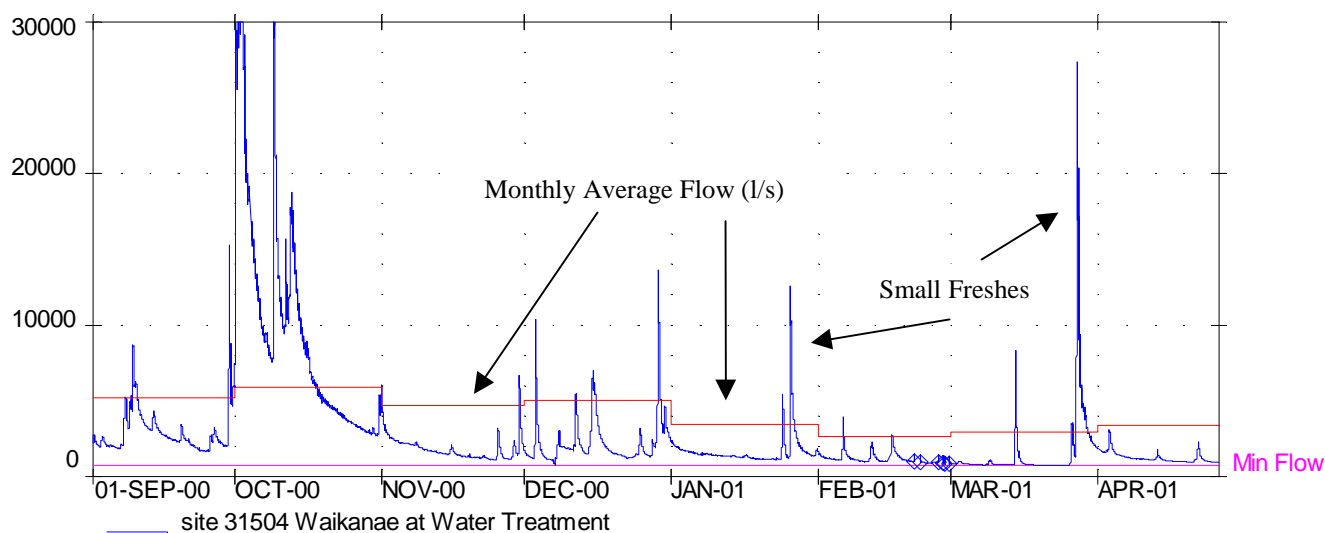


Figure 1. Waikanae Recorded and Monthly Average Flows

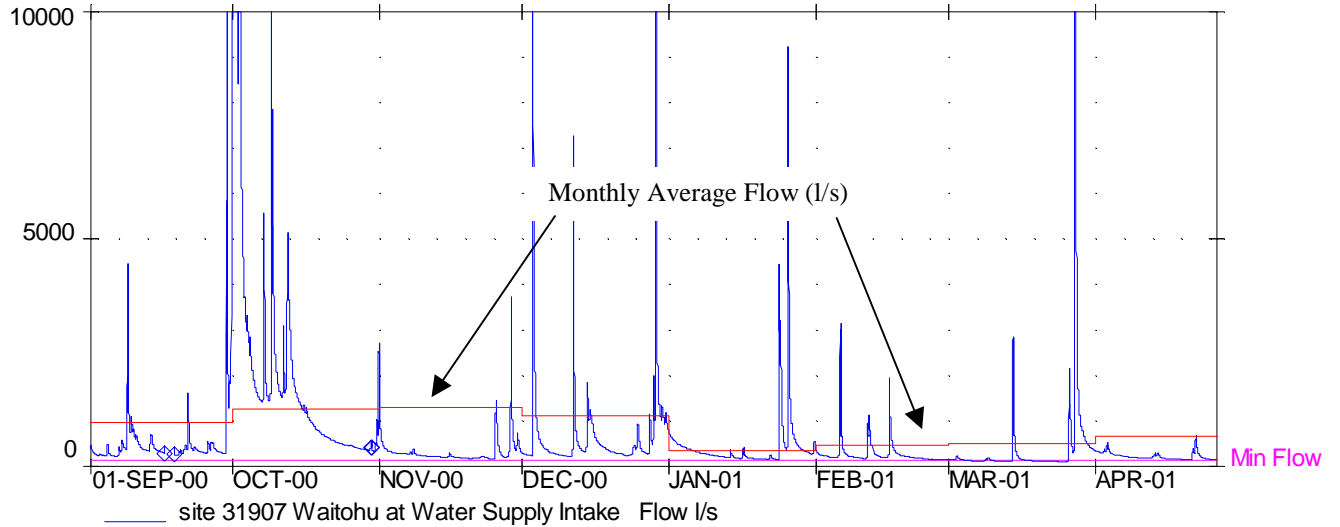


Figure 2. Waitohu Recorded and Monthly Average Flows

Figure 3 summarises the state of the river flows during April. The only catchment to have more than 50 percent of its average flow was the Otaki River.

An in depth analysis needs to be taken of the summer and autumn drought in terms of the hydrological aspect, but preliminary analyses show that Wellington has had in excess of a 1 in 100-year low rainfall drought over the 3, 6 and 12 month periods to March 2001. Similar results have been obtained for the Hutt Valley. On the Kapiti Coast the dry patch has reached 1 in 20, 1 in 13, and 1 in 46-year events for the summer, six month and 12 month periods respectively. Since February 2000, Wellington has only had two months where more than 60 percent of the average rainfall has fallen.

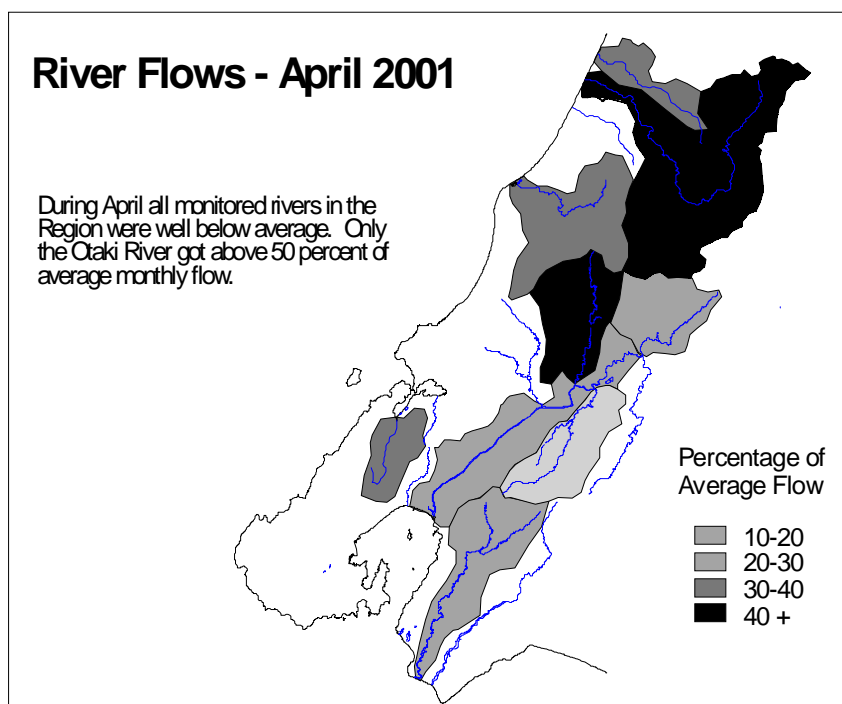


Figure 3. Average Monthly Flows by Catchment

2.3 **Air Quality Monitoring**

The following pie graphs provide a summary of monitoring results at the Birch Street Reserve in Lower Hutt for the past six weeks.

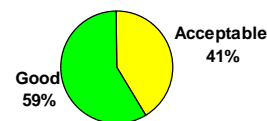
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt



24 Hr Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt



The assessment categories are:

Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	A broad category, where maximum values might be of concern in some sensitive locations, but are generally at a level that does not warrant dramatic action.

Good	Between 10% and 33% of the guideline	Peak measurements in this range are unlikely to affect air quality.
Excellent	Less than 10% of the guideline	Of little concern.

3. Resource Quality

3.1 Pollution and Non-compliance Complaints

A summary of pollution complaints, our performance in responding to them and enforcement action taken is reported separately.

3.2 Enforcement

New Zealand Oil Services Ltd

In October 1999, NZ Oil Services Ltd had a diesel spill which entered Wellington Harbour near Seaview. They pleaded guilty to the charge. On April 23 the Environment Court fined NZ Oil Services Ltd \$7,000 and they were ordered to pay part of the investigation costs incurred by the Council.

New Zealand Galvanising Ltd.

We are seeking to prosecute New Zealand Galvanising Ltd for an unauthorised discharge of chromium and zinc into the stormwater and subsequently into Waiwhetu Stream which occurred on 15 August 2000. The matter will be heard by the Environment Court on 28 May.

Anglian Water International

Two charges were laid against Anglian Water International Ltd for the unauthorised discharge of sewage from their sludge de-watering plant on 27 November last year. The matter will also be heard by the Environment Court on 28 May.

3.3 Water Shortage Directions

On 22 March 2001, water shortage directions were issued for the Waikanae River and Waitohu Stream after they fell below the minimum flow levels set in the Regional Freshwater Plan. These directions restricted water use to essential public water supply, essential household use (i.e., not including garden watering, car washing or similar activities), and the supply of drinking water for livestock. Irrigation of all land, including the use of sprinklers and hand held hoses, was prohibited.

In response to rainfall on 26 March, the levels of both the Waikanae River and Waitohu Stream rose above the minimum flow levels and the water shortage directions were lifted.

3.4 Pollution Prevention Programme Pilot

An environmental site audit kit (ESAK) has been developed for the Council's Pollution Prevention Programme. This programme is a major part of the Council's Business Bridges initiative. The ESAK will provide the key resource for the Pollution

Prevention Programme which will involve regional council staff visiting businesses and conducting environmental audits with them. The kit and our approach to undertaking site audits is being trialed in the Rongatai area during April. Once this trial is completed the kit will be reviewed, amended where necessary, and the final version will be printed. The full Pollution Prevention Programme will begin next financial year.

4. **Staffing Matters**

Kathryn Hooper, one of our Resource Quality Officers, left the Council on 27 April and has returned to Taranaki to work for a consulting company.

Gary Stephenson started with the Council on 23 April in the role of Surface Water Quality Scientist/Ecologist. Gary has considerable experience as a consultant, working particularly in the coastal marine area.

Brent Watson joined the Council on 30 April 2001 as a Resource Technician. Brent has previous experience in this field with Auckland Regional Council.

Consents Management Department Report

Rob Forlong, Manager

May 2001

1. Consent Statistics

The median time for processing non notified consents remains at nine working days. The Wellington Office has processed 244 consents so far this financial year.

2. Appeals

We are still waiting on decisions for the Promall and Little Blue Penguin cases which were heard in the Environment Court earlier in the year.

The appeals on the Telstra Saturn consents relating to the undersea cable north of Wellington have been resolved by consent order. The Titahi Bay Residents' Association came to agreement with Telstra Saturn agreeing on more conditions regarding the fossilised forest.

We are still waiting for a Court date on the boatshed appeals.

3. Compliance

3.1 Abatement Notices

No abatement notices were issued since the last Committee meeting.

3.2 Infringement Notices

No infringement notices were issued since the last Committee meeting.

3.3 Prosecution and Enforcement Orders

We were due to appear in the Environment Court to hear an enforcement order for CEH Construction Limited (formerly MKL Asphalt Limited) on Monday 23 April 2001. On the Friday beforehand, CEH proposed wind conditions that their air quality scientist considered that they could operate under without breaching the terms of their consent. We acted on the advice of our lawyers and reached an agreement that was put before the Environment Court. CEH will operate under this agreement until odour mitigation measures are put in place at the asphalt plant. We believe the terms of the agreement are a practical way forward to provide relief from odour problems for the residents of Lindenvale, Tawa.

As part of the charges we have laid against Burrell Demolition we sought a declaration from the Environment Court over the interpretation of a consent condition. The Environment Court chose not to make a declaration and subsequently we appealed that decision to the High Court. The High Court found the Environment Court should have made a declaration. The High Court then made a declaration that I believe will remove all doubt as to the meaning of the condition. This is a significant outcome both for council officers and will be helpful in the up and coming criminal proceedings.

4. **Other**

4.1 **Proposed Charging Policy**

Submissions have closed on the proposed charging policy and we will be arranging hearings in the near future. The Policy and Finance Committee appointed Councillors Buchanan, Long and Turver to hear the submissions.

4.2 **Staffing**

Peter Day has gone on secondment to the Ministry for the Environment for four months. He will be working in the Standards and Indicators group focusing on Contaminated Sites, Environmental Performance Indicators and National Environmental Standards.

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
Peter Hunt ²	Consents associated with the development and operation of a cleanfill	13/02/98	15/09/98	3	Application has been stopped because applicant is yet to pay a Notified application fee				
ProMall ³	Consents associated with the development of a new shopping mall. Regional Council consents consist of several bridges, realignment of part of a stream and construction of artificial lakes	05/02/99	25/06/99	250+		13/12/99-17/12/99	Upper Hutt City Councillors	24/12/99	Appeal now concluded. Awaiting Judges decision.
Lambton Harbour Management ¹	Consents associated with the development of the Taranaki Street Wharf and Lagoon area	09/04/99	21/05/99	77		04/08/99 05/08/99 06/08/99	Councillor Buchanan, Tony Town (Commissioner)	06/09/99	Granted with conditions now under appeal
GNB Technologies	Discharge to air of contaminants arising from a battery recycling facility	01/03/00	19/04/00	20	10/05/00	Application placed on hold to allow for a 3 month lead deposition monitoring programme. Hearing currently scheduled to be held by end of July.			
Eastern Bays Little Blue Penguin ⁴	Consents associated with the development of a bird rehabilitation facility	12/04/00	30/05/00	727	Applicant chose not to have pre hearing	12/07/00 13/07/00 and 14/07/00	Commissioners Sue Driver and Ian Stewart	17/08/00	Appeal now concluded. Awaiting

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
Mana Volunteer Coast Guard	Consents associated with the construction of a new Coast guard and training facility	01/05/00	07/06/00	12	01/11/00	04/04/01	Councillors Buchanan and Te Akapikirangi Arthur	18/04/01	Granted with conditions
M Goddard	Overnight stays in boatshed	11/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal.
B and S Pidford	Overnight stays in boatshed	31/05/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
M Ambrose	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
M Ambrose	Consents associated with the construction of a new boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
L Ramsey	Overnight stays in boatshed	02/06/00	19/07/00	133	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
A and N Johns	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
O and K Martin	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	162	N/A	21/08/00 –	Councillors	20/09/00	Declined

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
						23/08/00	Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt		now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
R and P Lewis	Residential use of boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	139	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
C Feast	Overnight stays in boatshed	06/06/00	19/07/00	134	N/A	21/08/00 – 23/08/00	Councillors Buchanan, Gibson and McDavitt	20/09/00	Declined now under appeal. Awaiting Court date.
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Orongorongo River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	4	Discussion between applicant and submitters progressing with draft conditions being prepared in anticipation of reaching a negotiated outcome.				
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Wainuiomata River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	7	Discussion between applicant and submitters progressing with draft conditions being prepared in anticipation of reaching a negotiated				

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
					outcome.				

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
WRC – Water Group	Consents associated with the taking of water from the Hutt River for public supply	06/06/00	21/07/00	5	Discussion between applicant and submitters progressing with draft conditions being prepared in anticipation of reaching a negotiated outcome.				
Telstra Saturn	Consents associated with the installation and maintenance of a submarine fibre optic telecommunications cable, Titahi Bay.	05/07/00	16/08/00	215	No	16, 17, 18, 14, 15 October	Councillor Ian Buchanan, Commissioners Annette Main (Horizon.mw), Ian Stewart	15/11/00	Appeal resolved by Consent Order.
New Zealand Galvanising	Discharge to air for contaminants from a hot dip galvanising process and associated activities.	24/07/00	29/08/00	4	08/09/00	Application on hold to allow for ambient air monitoring to be undertaken.			
Transit ⁵	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Highway 2 and 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99					
Tranist ⁵	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58	07/11/00	19/01/01	99					
Kapiti Coast District Council ⁶	Consents associated with taking water from the Otaki River for supplementary public water supply.	04/12/00	12/03/01	115					

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Wellington City Council	Change of consent monitoring conditions for the Moa Point Pump Station	02/11/00	08/12/00	2		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
Wellington City Council	Change of condition monitoring conditions for the Moa Point long outfall	02/11/00	08/12/00	2	07/02/01	No formal hearing required	Environment Committee 03/04/01	5/04/01	Granted with conditions
Wellington City Council	Renewal of discharge of milliscreened effluent to the coast during wet weather events, Western Wastewater Treatment Plant	20/12/00	05/03/01	9		On hold for further information in relation to monitoring requirements			
Hutt City Council	Consents associated with the discharge of wastewater during major wet weather events	16/11/00	09/03/01	4	27/03/01				

- 1 These applications were heard jointly with Wellington City Council
- 2 These applications will be heard jointly with Porirua City Council
- 3 These application were heard jointly with Upper Hutt City Council
- 4 These application will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council
- 5 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council
- 6 These applications will be jointly heard with Kapiti Coast District Council

Harbours Department Report

Mike Pryce, Manager

May 2001

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

Barrett Reef Buoy exchange took place on 19/20 March 2001, when the "new" buoy was deployed. The "old" buoy was removed from the water for maintenance. All other navigation aids are operating satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution Response

Only two oil pollution reports were received and investigated. None required clean-up action.

3. Departmental Activities

On 21 March 2001 the Deputy Harbourmaster took part in a Civil Defence Exercise held by the Porirua City Council.

On 6 April 2001 Manager Harbours attended the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum committee meeting held in Wellington.

On 1 May 2001 Manager Harbours attended the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee meeting held at Palmerston North. It was held in Palmerston North so that committee members could attend the official opening of the Wildlife Ward at Massey University.

The Capital Boat Show at Queen's Wharf on 28-29-30 April 2001 was a great success. The Department had a joint display stand with the Maritime Safety Authority, and had commissioned new large safety posters for this event (and for future use at any other suitable venue.) Patrick Atwood, Pat Dixon and Grant Nalder manned the display at various times throughout the three days (Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday). They reported much positive interest. Approximately another 500 "boat safety packs" were distributed to interested local boaties.

4. General Events/Information

4.1 Ferries

The old Tranz Rail freight ferry *Arahanga* was sold to Indian shipbreakers.

Strait Shipping Ltd. took delivery of their new freight ferry *Kent* in mid-May.

Emergency Management Department Report

Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager

May 2001

1. EQC Grant

In August 2000 the Emergency Management staff of the Region met with staff of the Flood Protection Group to discuss the possibility of applying for a research grant from the Earthquake Commission. The Manager then had several discussions with Ivan Skinner (grant co-ordinator) of the EQC to obtain information on how to apply for the grant. It was pointed out that the WRC would not be allocated a grant, but that would instead make use of a research institution (if more than one, even better). We then had several discussions with IGNS who submitted (30 September) the application on our behalf.

We are pleased to report that the application was successful and a sum of \$53,660 was granted.

2. Review of National Civil Defence Plan

The Manager, Emergency Management has been appointed as the LGNZ representative on the National Plan review committee to consider proposed revisions to sections of the National Civil Defence Plan. The National Civil Defence Plan is the current mechanism by which national responsibilities and roles are defined in relation to the management of a major emergency. Prior to the enactment of the new Bill, the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management is seeking to revise, where appropriate, sections of the current Plan so that it will ensure that transition arrangements remain sound. The tasks envisaged are:

- review of the working documents;
- consultation process, collation of feedback;
- formal meetings to discuss the issues; and
- final review and sign-off.

3. Project Phoenix

It has been recognised that a severe earthquake in Wellington would have major repercussions for the nation as a whole. Not only is Wellington the seat of Government, with a myriad of government departments and overseas embassies, but power from the South Island passes through on its way north. National business offices are located here and it is the transport connection between both islands.

Businesses, financial institutions, the tourist industry, emergency and essential services operational capability could be severely compromised for some considerable time.

The possibility exists that overseas aid would be channelled through Auckland's air and seaways, requiring mechanisms of co-ordination to be established. An influx of evacuees or casualties may also add to Auckland's perceived responsibility.

Project Phoenix was designed to ensure that a clear and coherent approach to a Wellington situation could be achieved without seriously reducing the contingent capability of Auckland.

The Wellington Regional Emergency Management Committee has accepted the challenge and has prepared a scenario for a realistic earthquake to occur on the Wellington Fault in July 2002.

This challenge resulted from an initiative of the Auckland Regional Emergency Management Group looking at the logistical requirements to support other regions in major emergencies.

At a meeting held in Auckland on 29 March this year, the two committees met together with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management and decided on a path forward. Clear objectives were set at the meeting.

The Wellington objectives encompassed the following:

To establish a framework for the identification and supply of critical external resources needed for public safety in a major civil defence emergency.

The sub-objectives included:

- To develop robust processes during the period leading up, to the exercise (e.g. processes for information collection and analysis, logistics database analysis, etc.).
- To establish a logistics chain of control for the three functional review areas (urban search and rescue, treatment and movement of the injured and the provision of safe water).
- To establish a robust communications network.
- To define publicity requirements for the exercise.

The methods that are being put in place to achieve the common goal are to provide the scenario, all the objectives, and identifying the roles and responsibilities of the various critical agencies.

A series of generic questions and checklists have been prepared and will be provided to each agency within the Wellington Region. They will be required to carry out an analysis of the external resources they would be required to obtain on their behalf in the interests of the safety of their communities.

The result of each evaluation will lead to a resource list being provided to the Auckland Region and Central Government, both of whom will be tested in their ability to provide the required resources in a timely manner.

The exercise has constraints in that it has been deliberately limited to search and rescue, treatment and movement of the injured, and the provision of safe water.

Other regions within New Zealand will be invited to participate in an observer capacity.

4. **Communications**

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. No problems have been experienced and the system seems to be in a good functional condition.

5. **Activities**

Since the previous report of the Emergency Management Department to the Environment Committee on 3 April 2001, staff has been involved in various activities relating to public information and general emergency management planning.

- On 21 March 2001, the Manager, Emergency Management participated in the Porirua City exercise as the Planning/Intelligence Manager. The scenario was of a huge petroleum spill in the central business district of Porirua. Emergency Services. Oil companies and the Regional Council Pollution Response and Harbour's Department also participated in the exercise.
- We attended the Regional Rural Fire Committee meetings that were held in Wellington on 22 and 23 March. The various sub-group chairpersons presented their respective plans of action regarding Planning and Intelligence, Logistics, Operations Management, Incident Control and Information Management.
- On 27 March we attended a meeting with the Wellington Lifelines Co-ordinator to discuss Project Phoenix, especially with reference to urban search and rescue and the provision of safe water. As a result of the meeting a workshop to discuss the issues was arranged for 4 May.
- A meeting with Capital Coast Health took place on 30 March. Project Phoenix was discussed as well as the Wellington Hospital Emergency Plan.
- On 2 April we attended a meeting with the WRC Water Group chaired by Dave Benham. The purpose of the meeting was to resolve the expectations of various parties in the event that the wholesale water system was not available after a major emergency. At the meeting it was decided that:
 - a discussion is to take place with the water supply managers of the cities to make them understand that they will have to collect water from wherever it is available;
 - the situation described above is clarified in the Water Group's risk policy and endorsed by the Utility Services Committee;
 - the situation outlined above is included in the draft water supply agreement with the relevant city councils; and

- the equipment that might be needed to supply water tankers or vehicles or vessels for carrying water at the various scour points on the distribution pipeline be investigated and included in the capital works programme.
- On 4 April we met with the manufacturers of “Filterzone” at the Trentham Army camp. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss enhancement of the prototype demonstrated. The Defence Force is also very interested in the system and several units will be sent to East Timor for trial.
- The Regional Council’s emergency management volunteer group undertook a First Aid refresher course on 9 April. The staff of the Department also attended.
- On 11 April we attended a presentation regarding the earthquake in India. Presenters were IGNS and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (USA). It was interesting to note that this 7.7-earthquake left more than 20,000 dead and 200,000 injured. Because of the widespread liquefaction (more than 10,000 square kilometres) major damage to buildings occurred more than 250km away from the epicentre.
- The Regional Council (Emergency Management) once again hosted a delegation of Chinese seismologists who visited Wellington on 19 April. The group was escorted by Rosalind Groves (our Hazard Analyst) and visited IGNS in Gracefield, had a tour of the Wellington Fault, visited the Wellington Emergency Management Office, the National and Regional Headquarters in the Beehive, Te Papa and the WRC offices.
- We attended the Emergency Management Officer’s meetings at Masterton on 17 April. Discussions revolved around hazard analysis, logistics (Project Phoenix), the CDEMG and future planning.
- From 18 to 20 April the Manager and the Emergency Management Officer attended the Advanced Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) course at the Police College in Porirua. The purpose of the course was to equip emergency management personnel with the knowledge and skills required applying the principles of CIMS to those that require an emergency response. The course is regarded as of very high value, was very well presented and covered aspects such as:
 - functions of command, control and co-ordination at a range of exercise incidents;
 - philosophy and process for establishing an incident management system;
 - functions, roles and responsibilities within CIMS;
 - processes for the development of incident action plans (objectives, strategies, tactics and tasks);
 - primary incident facilities; and
 - application of competencies and skills of key appointments in exercise scenarios.

- On 24 April the Manager and the Emergency Management officer provided the Wairarapa emergency management volunteer staff with training in CIMS. The Wairarapa Exercise is planned to take place in Masterton on 30 April.
- On 26 April we assisted the Masterton District Council in setting-up their emergency management headquarters according to the CIMS structure.

6. General

Since the last report, 24 earthquakes bigger than 3.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in New Zealand. The following Earthquake Reports for the Wellington Region (and reports of earthquakes felt in Wellington) were received from IGNS.

[2001 April 10](#) - 60 km west of Paraparaumu (4.2)

[2001 April 5](#) - 50 km north-west of Paraparaumu (3.8)

[2001 April 5](#) - 40 km south-east of Blenheim (4.3)

[2001 April 5](#) - 30 km south-east of Blenheim (5.0)

[2001 April 5](#) - 50 km south-east of Blenheim (4.8)

[2001 April 5](#) - 30 km south-east of Blenheim (4.0)

[2001 March 16](#) - Within 5 km of Upper Hutt (3.2)

- Since the 3 April report, no Special Weather Bulletins (SWBs) were received.

Richard Waddy, Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: March 2001

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the nine month period ended 31 March 2001.

<u>Environment Division</u>			
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>			
<u>For the Period Ended 31 March 2001</u>			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	5,138.7	5,138.7	-
Other Revenue	1,409.4	1,456.1	46.7 U
Total Revenue	6,548.1	6,594.8	46.7 U
<u>Less:</u>			
Direct Expenditure	5,283.6	5,903.4	619.8 F
Indirect Expenditure	623.3	640.5	17.2 F
Total Operating Expenditure	5,906.9	6,543.9	637 0 F
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	641.2	50.9	590.3 F

2. Operating Surplus

The Division's financial health is in good heart. For the period, an operating surplus of \$641,000 was struck. This is significantly higher than our budgeted position which provides for a smaller surplus of \$51,000.

The result translates to a net favourable variance \$590,000 and comprises a revenue shortfall of \$47,000, offset by reduced expenditure \$637,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$6,548,000 was some \$47,000 short of our budget target of \$6,595,000. The deficit is in the main with the Internal Revenue line, which although improving, is some \$69,000 short of our budgets.

The Internal Revenue shortfall is largely because of the accounting treatment of annual resource management charges. The Water Group requested that these be

processed in monthly instalments instead of a single charge as previously. We have accommodated their request. We expect that the shortfall will be fully extinguished by year end.

Central government's reimbursement of emergency management costs (1999/2000) was taken into account during the period. The payment amounted to \$30,334 or 7.66% of the expenses claimed. In the previous year the payout was 8% of the claim.

4. **Expenditure**

Total Expenditure was \$5,907,000, that is some \$637,000 (11.0%) below our budgets.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs are under budget by \$91,000. This is largely due to staff movements in the period. It is expected that a small portion of this underspend will be a permanent saving. However, we will incur additional staff costs with an unbudgeted part-time position in Environment Co-ordination and a part-time secretarial position in Consents Management.
- Material Costs are some \$86,000 behind budget. The spend on environment education project works is less than our budgets anticipated at this stage. However, it is expected that budgets will be fully utilised by the year-end when, among other things, the extensive range of educational resources is printed.
- External Contractors and Consultants are \$440,000 under budget. The level of expenditure on iwi projects continues to lag behind our budget. This situation with iwi projects seems to be inevitable despite concerted efforts on our part to secure contracts. However, there is an initiative to utilise \$100,000 of iwi budget before year end, as well as various other contracted work. In addition, the storm water research project and transportation of non-petroleum hazardous substance projects are slightly behind time wise.

5. **Capital Expenditure**

- Currently our capital expenditure is \$56,000 (including proceeds from disposals) under budget. The purchase of a replacement motor vehicle was slightly delayed, and that transaction was completed in April instead of March as budgeted. The balance of the underspend comprises minor plant and equipment items – for example, the purchase of hydrological sensor equipment. Once again, the budget is expected to be utilised.