

Geoff Skene
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

Environment Co-ordination Department Report – October 2003

1. Ecosystems and Biodiversity (Tim Porteous)

At the last meeting of the Committee I said we would be providing a report to this Committee on progress with implementing the Council's ecosystem and biodiversity programmes. As we prepared this report, it became clear that there would be a considerable overlap with the RPS and Plan Implementation Report in this Order Paper. As the latter is a record of activity for Annual Plan purposes and is thus required, we have included a full discussion on biodiversity within that report and not completed an additional biodiversity report.

The 2003-04 government Condition and Advice fund is now closed. We have made an application to the fund on behalf of the Wellington Land Protection Forum (which we lead) for further funds to assist private landowners.

2. Take Action (Eleanor Phillips; Susan Hutchinson-Daniel; Richard Morgan; Jo Fagan; Fionna Chester)

Term 3 finished on the 19 September and Term 4 started on 6 October. Term 4 Schools are Cornwall Street in Masterton, San Antonio's in Eastbourne and St Francis de Sales in Island Bay. The educators are working with eight classes this term on the guided programme and two self guided schools are Churton Park and Ponatahi Christian School in Carterton.

St Joseph's completed most of their action projects by the end of term 3. These included pamphlets, litter surveys, 2 clean ups, posters in public places, a planting behind the school and a song on Ati awa radio station. Makara School also recorded a song for the radio, made videos, planted some rata at school and the class plan to do a poster for the community noticeboard.

St Patrick's School action projects included a newsletter article, models and a mural. This school received press coverage of their trail days.

Pukeatua pupils were helped to do a second tree planting by Susan at the Wainuiomata Water Treatment area.

The new rebranded *Take Action* pamphlet has been sent out to all the schools in the Region that have not done the guided programme. Copies have also been sent to Mana Education Centre for display. As well as running the programme,

the educators are busy preparing the Action Project resources which will help schools do more effective action projects and cover topics that interest them in more detail (bush biodiversity, coastal processes, etc).

3. *Take Care* Applications (Nigel Clarke)

Applications to the *Take Care* fund for community groups have been called for and close on 14 October 2003. The brochure for applicants has been redesigned and issued using Greater Wellington branding.

Name Nicola Shorten
Designation Manager, Resource Policy

Resource Policy Department Report – October 2003

1. Maintaining Regional Policies and Plans

1.1 Regional Plans (Murray McLea)

Four of our five Regional Plan changes were made operative on 1 September. One of these plan changes has withdrawn the Transitional Regional Plan in its entirety. The operative plan changes are now available on our website.

There are three outstanding references on the changes to the Regional Freshwater Plan. A second meeting was held with Transit to discuss their two references, and we have clarified our position in a letter to them. We are in mediation with Mr Barton, but have recently written to him with a suggestion for resolving his reference. We have told Mr Barton and the Environment Court that there is no point continuing with mediation if Mr Barton finds our suggestion unacceptable.

1.2 Regional Coastal Plan/Coastal Matters (Stephen Karaitiana, Nicola Shorten)

The draft changes to the Regional Coastal Plan that relate to noise in the port area (to be consistent with upcoming changes in the Wellington City Council District Plan) are still on hold. This is because the City Council would like to resolve some issues with their inner city noise changes first.

The discussion document for aquaculture has been distributed for consultation. The closing date for comments is 3 November. The Government proposals for consultation on the foreshore and seabed have meant further uncertainty for the proposed aquaculture legislation. The government has stated that it is not in a position to be able to announce a timeframe for this legislation.

Consultation on Oceans Policy has also been deferred, from October to early next year, as a result of the Governments proposals for consultation on the foreshore and seabed. The Oceans Policy Secretariat is unable to confirm a timetable for this work at this time.

2. Regional Plan Implementation

2.1 Wetland Action Plan (Melanie Dixon)

A 'Beginners guide to restoring wetlands' booklet has been distributed and the information also placed on the Greater Wellington website.

An application for funding to develop simple wetland hydrology guidelines has been sent to the National Biodiversity Advice Fund. The booklet would complement the existing wetland publication.

Biosecurity staff are continuing the fieldwork for the wetland database, gathering information on wetland extent and condition.

2.2 Freshwater Ecosystems (Murray McLea and Kirsten Forsyth)

A report on the freshwater ecosystems work was presented to the last meeting of the Committee.

The 'urban streams' study done in conjunction with Wellington City Council and Porirua City Council has been completed and a full report produced. Further work will continue this financial year.

We have been working with Resource Investigations and the territorial authorities with a view to developing an integrated stormwater strategy/action plan.

2.3 Marine Biodiversity

Marine biodiversity work is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

2.4 Other

Statutory resource management work is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

3. Iwi matters

Ara Tahi last met on 3 September, and their next meeting is scheduled for 12 November. The main topics for discussion were the review of the consents and administrative capacity funding contracts, and the request from Ngati Tama to join Council's governance arrangements with iwi.

The last iwi technical workshop was held on 27 August on aquaculture. This included a presentation from the Ministry for the Environment about the proposed aquaculture legislation, and a presentation from Greater Wellington staff about the discussion document.

The next iwi technical workshop will be held on 15 October. Feedback from the review of the contracts will be discussed.

4. Hazards (Rylee Pettersson)

Scoping work has started on the development of the internet portal for hazard information – one of the main recommendations from our user needs analysis. We will have help gathering data from a Victoria University student who will be doing her practicum with us over the summer.

Rylee Pettersson presented a paper at the Tsunami conference in September at Te Papa with David Johnston from GNS.

John Sherriff
Manager, Resource Investigations

Resource Investigations Department Report - October 2003

1. Resource Information

1.1 Flood warning

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

Since the last meeting of the Committee the following rainfall and water level alarms were received and responded to:

21 August 2003	<i>Rainfall</i> : Centre Ridge, Orongorongo Swamp <i>Water Level</i> : Birchville
28 August 2003	<i>Rainfall</i> : Seton Nossiter <i>Water Level</i> : Porirua
1 September 2003	<i>Rainfall</i> : Warwicks, Transmission Lines
9 September 2003	<i>Rainfall</i> : Orongorongo Swamp

1.2 River flow information

Councillors may have noticed that river flow information for key rivers in our Region is now included on the weather page in the Dominion Post. This is a consequence of liaison between Met Service and Greater Wellington staff.

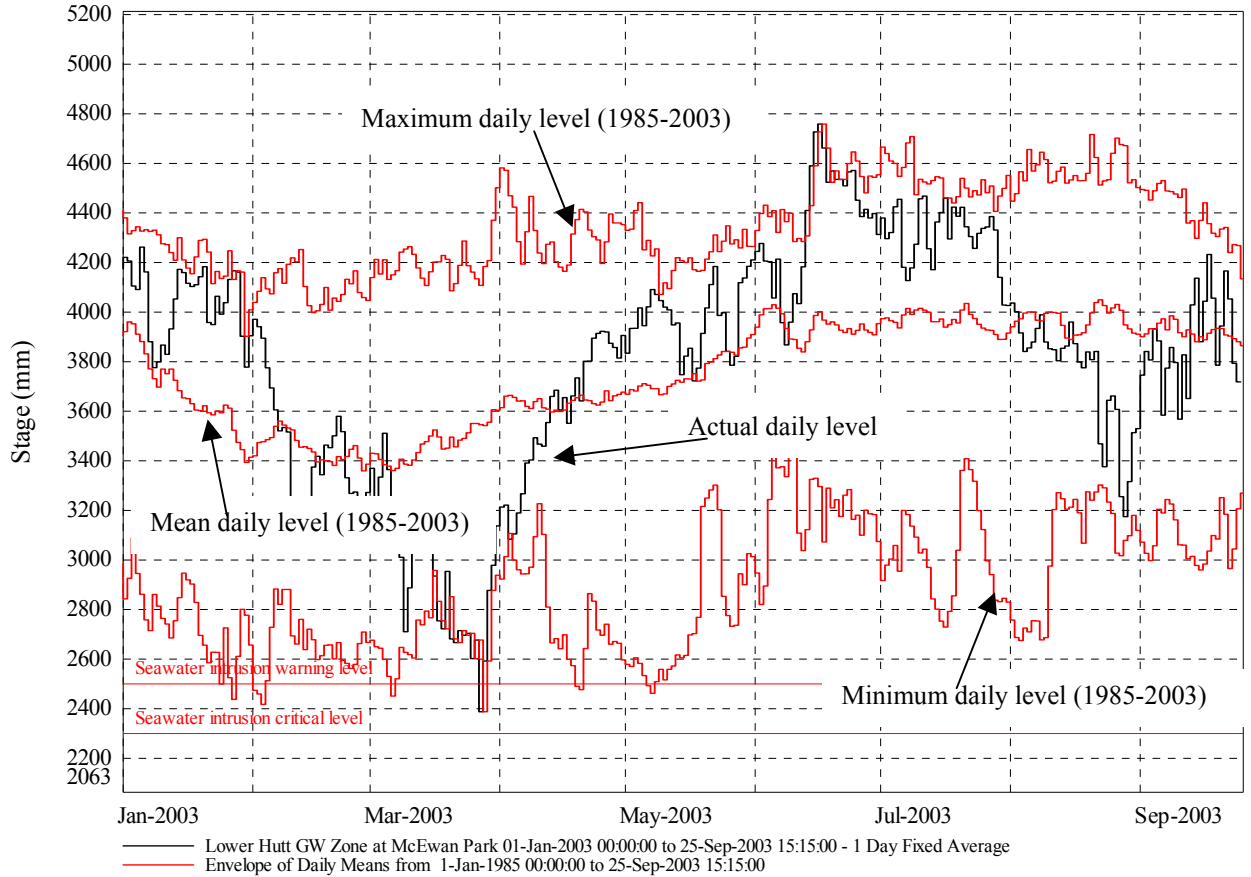
2. Resource Analysis

2.1 Groundwater levels

The Department monitors groundwater levels at 46 sites around the western Region. We use two of these bores, McEwan Park at Petone and Hautere Plain on the Kapiti Coast as general indicators of the state of groundwater resources in these areas.

The following graphs present a comparison between water levels recorded this year and historical summary data for the McEwan Park and Hautere Plains sites.

Lower Hutt groundwater zone – Upper Waiwhetu artesian aquifer

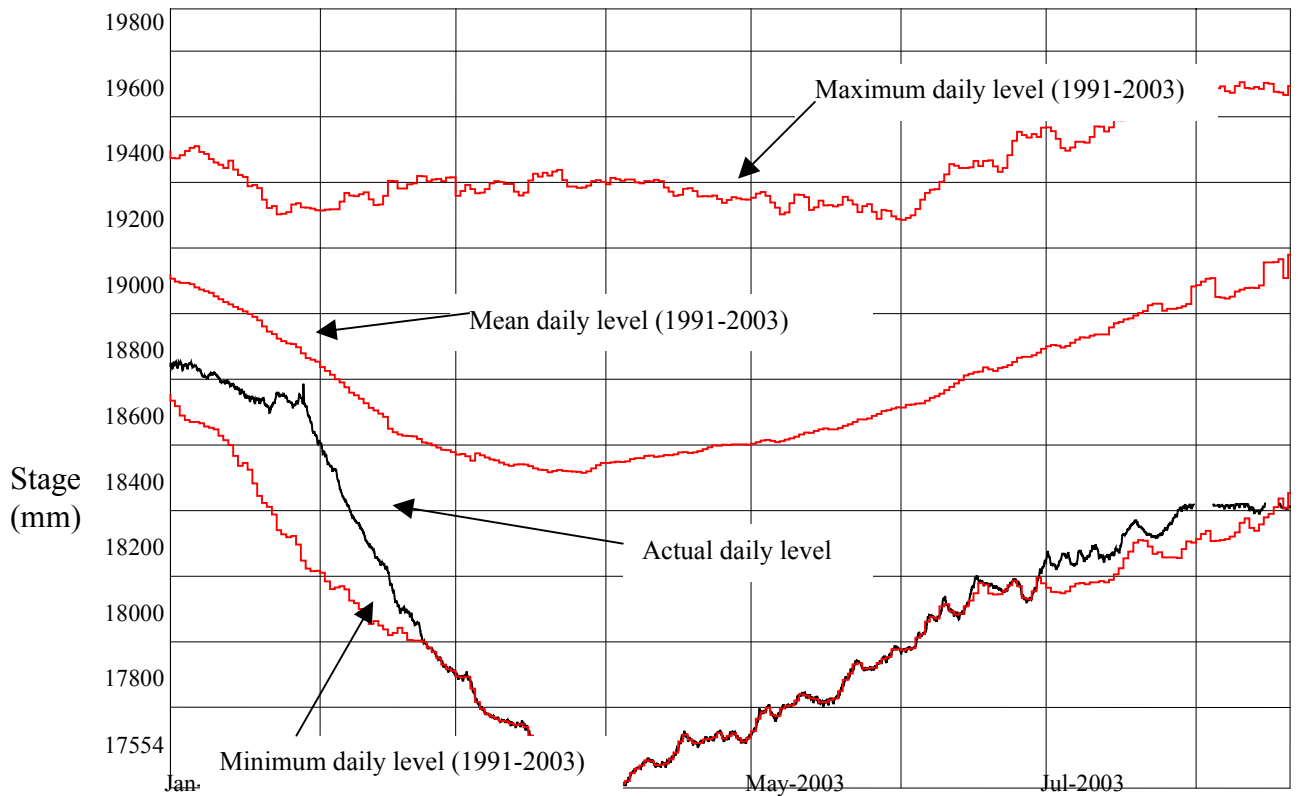


Aquifer pressure at our McEwan Park monitoring bore is currently at the long-term average level. The pressure has recovered from below average levels in August that were the result of low river flow.

Kapiti Coast

The recent dry spell has slowed the recovery of the groundwater level at our 128 metre deep monitoring site on the Hautere Plain. The water level at this site is currently at record low levels for this time of year, however the recent rain is expected to accelerate the water level recovery.

Shallow groundwater levels reduced in July and August in response to the below average rainfall. The recent rain has caused groundwater levels to recover; the groundwater at our Larch Grove monitoring site in Paraparaumu is now 800mm above the lowest value recorded last summer.



— Hautere GW Zone at Centrepont 01-Jan-2003 00:00:00 to 20-Aug-2003
 — Envelope of Daily Means from 19-Dec-1991 11:00:00 to 20-Aug-2003

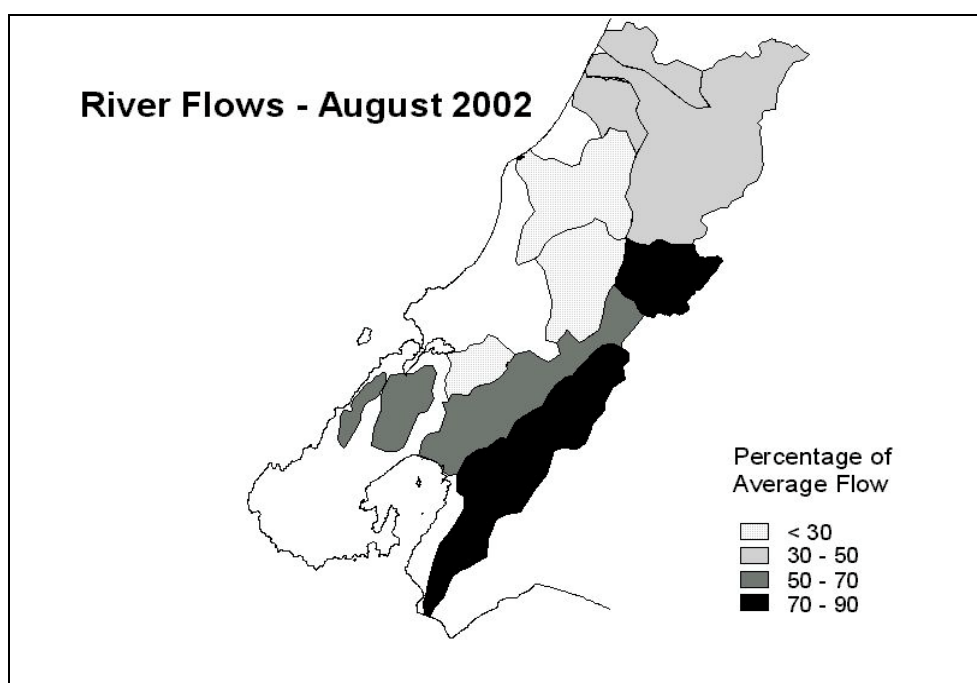


— Waikanae GW Zone at Larch Grove 01-Jan-2002 00:00:00 to 24-Sep-2003

2.2 Rainfall and river flows

The weather during August was characterised by easterly flows and south-easterly rainfall events. This pattern was particularly evident toward the end of the month. As a result, the August rainfall totals for Wellington city, Porirua, Wainuiomata and Orongorongo were slightly higher than usual. The Hutt Valley received slightly less rainfall than usual for August, while the predominantly easterly weather resulted in the Kapiti Coast and Western Tararua receiving significantly less rainfall than usual. Paraparaumu and Waikanae received only 30-40% of the usual August rainfall, while Otaki received about 50%.

As most of August's rainfall fell toward the end of the month, river flows continued their July trend and remained below average for the month. Despite the south-easterly rainfall at the end of the month, the Hutt, Mangaroa and Wainuiomata Rivers all had lower flows than usual for the time of year. To the north and west the river flows were significantly less than normal – flow in the Waikanae river was only about 29% of the average flow usually expected during August.



To date, September has been relatively wet in comparison. River flows have increased substantially to levels normally expected at this time of year.

SOI-based drought forecast

The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is one of the earliest possible methods of forecasting an impending drought. Previous studies have found that the SOI can be related to seasonal rainfall patterns in the Wairarapa, Kapiti Coast and Wellington.

An average winter SOI of -3.6 , as experienced this year, is not clearly related to an increased low rainfall probability in Wellington. However, this SOI value does tend to be related to an increased likelihood of low spring rainfall in many parts of the Wairarapa and on the Kapiti Coast.

In the Wairarapa the probability of a low spring rainfall has roughly doubled at most locations compared to the usual chance of occurrence. The likelihood of the total spring rainfall being at a 5 or 10-year return period low is slightly increased at Otaki and Paekakariki. At Waikanae, the probability of a 5 or 10-year return period low rainfall is double that of the usual probability. Similarly, a 10 or 20-year return period drought is two times more likely than usual at Paraparaumu. The SOI conditions experienced over winter also increase the probability of low Kapiti Coast river flows over spring.

As September has not been drier than usual to date, the SOI-based spring rainfall forecast is probably not of concern. In early December the SOI value for spring will be used to predict the probability of low rainfall over summer, which will be of interest for water demand predictions.

2.3 Air quality monitoring

2.3.1 Ambient air quality monitoring

We currently monitor ambient air quality at three sites in Lower Hutt (Birch Street Reserve), Upper Hutt (Trentham Fire Station) and Masterton (Wairarapa College). We also monitor carbon monoxide emissions at Te Aro.

The graphs below represent air quality at the location indicated when the monitoring results are compared to ambient air quality guidelines. The assessment categories are as follows:

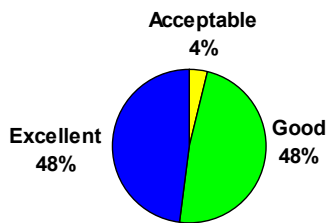
Category	Maximum Measured Value	Comment
Action	Exceeds Guideline	Completely unacceptable by national and international standards.
Alert	Between 66% and 100% of the guideline	A warning level which can lead to guidelines being exceeded if trends are not curbed.
Acceptable	Between 33% and 66% of the guideline	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.

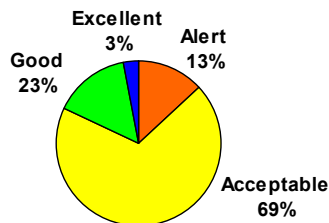
Councillors will be aware that our *Take 10 - Quality of Life* target for air quality is that there will be no recorded instances when air pollution reaches the "alert" level of the national air quality guidelines.

Results for the Past Six Weeks at Upper Hutt

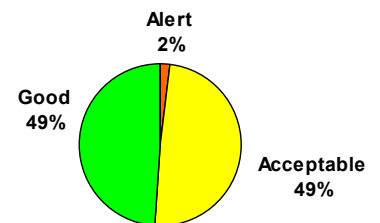
8-Hour Average CO at Upper Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Upper Hutt

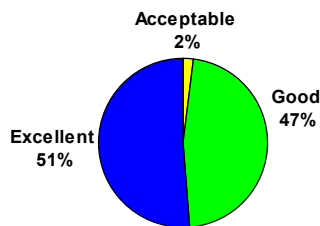


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Upper Hutt

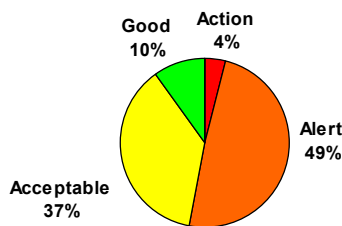


Results for the Past Six Weeks at Lower Hutt

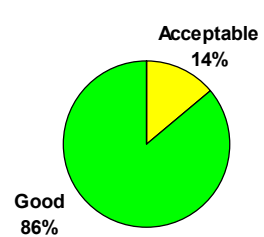
8-Hour Average CO at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Lower Hutt



24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Lower Hutt

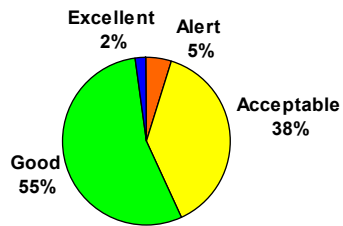


Results for the Past Six Weeks at Masterton

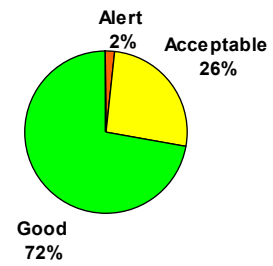
8-Hour Average CO at Masterton



24-Hour Average NO₂ at Masterton

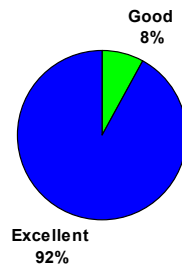


24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Masterton



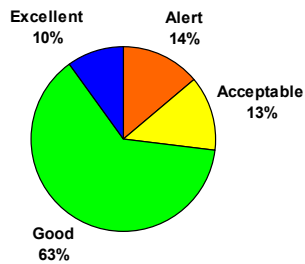
Results for the Past Six Weeks at Te Aro

8-Hour Average CO at Te Aro



Results for the past four months at Wainuiomata

24-Hour Average PM₁₀ at Wainuiomata



2.4 Stormwater

The first meetings with territorial authorities to discuss the idea of an integrated stormwater strategy have been completed.

Stormwater samples were collected at the Gracefield site. An attempt was made to sample stormwater at Waring Taylor Street, however, because the rainfall event did not develop as much as anticipated the sampling had to be abandoned.

3. Pollution control

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.

4. Staff

Suresh Syed and Simon Hansen have recently joined the Resource Information team. Suresh will predominantly be working on running the air quality monitoring network while Simon will be involved in a broader range of environmental monitoring duties.

Nic Conland has joined our Pollution Control Team. Nic was previously a Hazardous Substances Officer for Hutt City Council.

Luci Ryan
Manager, Consents Management

Consents Management Department Report – October 2003

1. Consent statistics

In the period to 19 September 2003 we received 126 consents. This compares with 64 consents received for the same period last year.

All consents processed in the 2003/2004 year have been completed within statutory time frames.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is attached.

2. Appeals

The appeals against the Haywards Hill Roding project are still outstanding.

The appeals against the State Highway 2 upgrade have been resolved. The consents were all confirmed on the same terms and conditions as set out in the Hearing Commissioners' decision. The consent certificates will be issued shortly.

CentrePort has appealed some of the conditions of the consents to dredge the harbour entrance. The issues raised are being resolved through negotiation.

In addition, CentrePort has also appealed the consents to dredge the harbour berths and the consents to dispose of the dredgings in the inner harbour. This matter is currently under discussion.

3. Compliance

3.1 General

Generally it has been a quiet month for compliance issues. However, we are continuing to receive complaints about odours in the vicinity of the Carey's Gully site, Happy Valley. We are currently waiting for confirmation of a timetable of proposed actions to be undertaken by three of the businesses at this site.

3.2 Abatement notices

We have issued two abatement notices since the last report to the Committee meeting. Both were issued in respect of damage to the foreshore at Ivey Bay.

3.3 Infringement notices

We have not issued any infringement notices since the last Committee meeting.

On 2 September 2003, Nuplex Environmental paid the \$1000 fine imposed on them by an infringement notice that was issued on 15 August 2003.

3.4 Prosecution and enforcement orders

We are prosecuting Kapiti Coast District Council for taking more water from the Waikanae River than their resource consent permits. At present, the prosecution is based on one breach that occurred last summer. We have a tentative court date at the District Court for 22 October 2003.

4. Other

Rachael Boisen commenced work in the department and a Resource Advisor on 3 September 2003. She previously worked for NZQA.

Sarah Van Erp commenced work in the department as a Resource Advisor on 22 September 2003. She previously worked for ERMA.

Jason Pene has resigned from the department to undertake his OE. His last day is on 10 October 2003. We are currently seeking a replacement.

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
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Highway 2 and 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99	N/A	27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
Transit ¹	Consents associated with the realignment of State Highway 58.	07/11/00	19/01/01	99		27/06/01 – 16/07/01 Reconvened on 01/08/01-02/08/01 and 27/08/01	Helen Tobin, Russell Howie and Richard Fowler	12/10/01	Granted – under appeal
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			
Transit ²	Upgrade of State Highway 2 from Dowse Drive to Petone.	30/03/01	29/05/01	100+		1/10/01 – 9/10/01	Helen Tobin, Richard Fowler, Barry Butcher		Appeals resolved, consent certificates to be issued.
CentrePort	To dredge inner harbour berths and dispose of the dredged material.	24/10/02	6/05/03	9		11/07/03 and 12/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	14/08/03	Granted with conditions – under appeal.
CentrePort	To dredge the harbour entrance and dispose of the dredged material	24/10/02	20/05/03	13		25/06/03-27/06/03 and 18/07/03	Christine Foster, Ian Stewart, Jack Rikihana	04/07/03	Granted with Conditions – currently under appeal
Lyall Bay Charitable Reef Trust	Consents associated with the construction of an artificial surf reef in Lyall Bay.	16/04/03	03/06/03	55		23/07/03 to 24/07/03	Ian Stewart Alistair Aburn Aka Arthur	11 Sept 2003	Granted – still in appeal period

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
Whitby Coastal Estates ³	Discharges associated with bulk earthworks, Duck Creek	16/09/02	09/05/03	20		09/09/03 to 10/09/03	Jack Rikihana, David Hutchinson		Hearing on-going. reconvening early October
Greater Wellington Regional Council – Flood Protection	River protection works on Hutt River, Belmont	27/05/03	08/07/03	2		Presented at environment committee		10 Sept 2003	Granted – still in appeal period
Wellington Waterfront Ltd ⁴	To redevelop Chaffers Park (to be renamed Waitangi Park) – including wetland, stormwater discharges, creation of a small beach.	24/09/03	not yet notified						Still processing.

1 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council and Upper Hutt City Council

2 These applications will be heard jointly with Hutt City Council

3 These applications will be heard jointly with Porirua City Council

4 These applications will be heard jointly with Wellington City Council

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Report - October 2003

1. Harbour navigation aids

All navigation aids operated satisfactory.

2. Oil pollution response

Two reports of oil spills were investigated; none required any clean up action.

On 22 September Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood attended and assisted with training at a crew oilspill response exercise held on board the ferry Arahura.

On 1 October we took delivery of a new custom-built oil spill response trailer. This will house all the response equipment needed for an initial marine oil spill response.

3. Events

On 11 September Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood attended the second meeting for the development of the International Shipping and Port Security Code for the port. This needs to be in place by June 2004.

On 18 September Deputy Harbourmaster Patrick Atwood attend a Dangerous Goods Working Group meeting at the MSA.

Department staff participated in the Wellington Boat and Leisure Show on the weekend of 26-28 September, with a GWRC Harbour Safety display stand and area. This also proved useful for advising visitors to the show about the proposed revised bylaws. This involved renewing banners, display materials and our jetski with the new council logo.

Much work was involved in preparing and drafting the proposed revised navigaton safety bylaws. These are now out for consultation

Rian van Schalkwyk
Manager, Emergency Management

Emergency Management Department Report – October 2003

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

1.1 CDEM Group Plan

The CDEM Group Plan is in progress. The Project manager (Debbie Cunningham) has prepared a draft framework for the Plan.

A strategic planning workshop to discuss the Plan and to get some input from all role-players took place on 30 September. Forty representatives from twenty-nine organisations attended. The main idea was to look at the purpose of the Plan, the preparation, application and process of the Plan, as well as the anticipated desired outcomes. The interaction between the different organisations was very good and a good understanding of what is expected from each has been established. These organisations will be involved with the more detailed aspects of the CDEM Group Plan over the next few months.

1.2 Project progress Reports

1.2.1 Emergency Water Supply

The Wellington Emergency Management Water Supply Group met on 9 September 2003. The draft text for an emergency water storage fact sheet (modelled on the hazard fact sheets already produced by Greater Wellington Emergency Management) was discussed and approved. The objective is to have this fact sheet available for the International Hazards Awareness Week (6-10 October 2003).

Radio advertising and media releases regarding the storage of emergency water for the same period (6-10 October) is planned and there will also be an article published in 'Elements'.

The Mitigation and Preparedness Strategy and Action plan were also discussed and after minor adjustments were made the Strategy and Action Plans were adopted. It was reissued as the September 2003 version.

The next meeting of the Water Group will take place in November 2003.

1.2.2 Regional Reconnaissance Plan

The Regional Reconnaissance Project Group (GW, PCC, HCC, WCC, MCDEM and Transit) have met on 12 September to discuss the way forward with the project. The following outputs were agreed:

- Documented pre-event information about the reconnaissance sites (possibly photos, what to look for, a matrix suitable to carry in the aircraft while flying the route etc).
- Reconnaissance protocols that link with Transit reconnaissance plan and TA plans.
- Protocols for the use of field staff for regional inputs (e.g. GW parks field staff, staff coming into the EOC).
- An agreed physical reconnaissance plan and appendices.
- Arrangements with aircraft providers.
- The reconnaissance plan is physically tested to ensure it is feasible.
- Arrangements for transport of key personnel within the region. Reconnaissance carried out on these flights.
- Defined reconnaissance flight routes including collection of key staff.
- Plan distributed to all necessary organisations including a public release to foster understanding of the protocols.

It is anticipated that the first draft Plan and appendices will be ready by 31 October 2003 and that all parties (Regional Liaison Group, Lifelines and TAs) will agree the Plan by 1 June 2004. The Reconnaissance Plan and the routes will be tested in an exercise by 31 August 2004. It is important to note that the finalisation of the Plan should coincide with the timeframes of the CDEM Group Plan.

The Plan will include aspects such as:

- Scope of Emergency Reconnaissance
- Protocols for single location and wide-spread hazard events
- Timeframes
- Regional Aerial Reconnaissance – what is covered and what not - one or more sweeps, analysis, etc.
- Movement of key emergency management staff
- Council reconnaissance – what is covered and what is not

1.2.3 Commuter Management

Approximately 80,000 commuters use public transport in and around Wellington Region on a daily basis. This constitutes a significant number of people who would need to be repatriated to their homes following a major emergency event in the Region, and especially in Wellington.

The Wellington Region Commuter Project is now well under way. A draft Communications Plan has been developed. The objective of this Plan is to establish a set of actions and responsibilities to communicate the key messages to the users of public transport and the operators of public transport on how to be prepared for emergencies and what to do during emergencies. There are some key messages and media options that need to be considered. The launch of the Plan is planned for March 2004.

2. Other activities

2.1 External relationships

- The Tsunami Workshop Organising Committee has met on several occasions during September to prepare for the Workshop that is planned for 25 and 26 September. A couple of meetings to discuss and decide on a communications plan (media releases, radio interviews, TV coverage, etc.) were also held.
- Following the major Bali-type terrorist bomb exercise that was held on 22 August, a regional debrief was held at WEMO on 22 September. Discussions were mainly about the application of the CIMS model and the difficulties that were experienced while trying to manage both a civil defence and a crime scene event. More meetings and workshops are planned to flesh out these issues.
- We were invited to attend a training session/tabletop exercise with the New Zealand Gas Industry. We have worked through different scenarios to determine our specific role (CDEMG and TAs), communications and notifications, managing the media, managing the political aspects if it is a national outage, environmental and other external factors, and the hard and soft parts of the society at risk. The training/exercise was quite useful in that we have interacted with suppliers, local authorities and the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management.
- The Regional Reconnaissance Project Group met on 12 September to discuss the draft Reconnaissance Plan. The Group will meet shortly to finalise the Plan and to get the necessary measures and agreements in place. The Plan will cover such aspects as: links with city/district Plans; protocols; triggers; activation time periods; utilisation of helicopters; aerial reconnaissance; councils reconnaissance; results reporting; information management; costs apportionment and costs recovery; and safety management. Also see the progress report mentioned in 1.2.

- Emergency management staff attended the two-day International Tsunami Workshop at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington, from 25 to 26 September. Participants were from all over the world (USA, Russia, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Ecuador, New Caledonia, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Fiji, French Polynesia, France, Canada, Hawaii and New Zealand). Topics discussed included: vulnerability, historical records, hazards and risk assessment, landslides, mitigation and response and geological records. Thirty-two presentations were made during the two days and the workshop was closed with a panel discussion about tsunami warning system responses.

3. Environment

3.1 Earthquake reports:

Since the last Environment Committee meeting 42 reports for earthquakes bigger than 3 on the Richter Scale were received from IGNS. Most of these seismic activities took place in the South Island (near Te Anau). Twenty-one aftershocks (as on 6 October) occurred ranging between 4.5 and 6.1 on the Richter-scale.

Earthquakes felt in the Wellington Region were:

4 October 2003, **Mag.** 3.9, **Depth:** 25km, **Location:** 10km north-west of Greytown

23 September 2003, **Mag.** 4.1, **Depth:** 25 km, **Location:** within 5 km of Upper Hutt

3.2 Special Weather Bulletins

Twenty two (up to 3rd October) Special Weather Bulletins (eight for heavy rain and fourteen for strong wind) were received since the last Committee meeting. All the relevant agencies were notified.

Early in September, the winds reached gusts of up to 169kmh (Castlepoint), 117kmh in Masterton and 128kmh in Wellington. It caused havoc on roads throughout the Region (high-sided trucks being pushed off roads), ripped off roofs, ripped out fences, blown in windows, caused power cuts in Upper Hutt and Carterton and toppled trees and power poles.

Severe weather was experienced on 3rd and 4th October which result in mud slides, road and rail closures, landslips and flooding across the Region.

Only the Kapiti Coast District Council declared a civil defence emergency.

State Highways 1 and 2 were both closed as well as the Hayward Hill and Paekakariki Hill Roads. The storm effectively cut Wellington off from the rest of the country leaving hundreds of motorists stranded. Several houses and businesses in Paekakariki were flooded with mud; debris and sewerage contaminated water.

Residents and motorists had to be evacuated by fire appliances and 4WD vehicles.

3.3 Communications

Weekly tests of the communications network are still being carried out. The system is functioning well and no problems have been experienced.

Name Richard Waddy
Designation Divisional Accountant

Financial Position: 31 August 2003

1. Operating Results

We are pleased to report the operating results for the two month period ended 31 August 2003.

<u>Environment Division</u>			
<u>Summary Income Statement</u>			
<u>For the Period Ended 31 August 2003</u>			
	Full Year		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>	<u>\$000s</u>
Rates	1,273.4	1,273.4	--
Other Revenue	260.4	297.4	37.0 U
Total Revenue	1,533.8	1,570.8	37.0 U
Less:			
Direct Expenditure	1,284.3	1,326.4	42.1 F
Indirect Expenditure	208.6	214.3	5.7 F
Total Operating Expenditure	1,492.9	1,540.7	47.8 F
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	40.9	30.1	10.8 F

2. Surplus

Overall the Division's finances are in a satisfactory state with our revenues and expenditure closely matched.

For the year, an operating surplus of \$41,000 was posted. This is comparable to our budgeted position which provides for an operating surplus of \$30,000. The result translates to a net favourable variance \$11,000, comprising reduced revenue of \$37,000, and offset by reduced expenditure of \$48,000.

3. Revenue

Total Revenue at \$1,534,000 is some \$37,000 behind our budget target of 1,571,000. Revenues are lower than expected because a number of notified consents are at various stages of completion. For example the Lyall Bay Reef and CentrePort's harbour dredging consent applications are yet to be concluded. Therefore, the shortfall is considered to be temporary.

4. Total Expenditure

The Division's total expenditure amounted to \$1,493,000. This represents an underspend of \$48,000 or 3.1 % on a budget of \$1,541,000.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Personnel costs were slightly under budget by \$30,000. Staff movements during the period are the main cause of the under-spend.
- Material costs were under budget by \$15,000. The spend on a number of projects is presently at a lower than budgeted level. In addition, the repairs and maintenance expenditure on air monitoring equipment is presently lower than anticipated. However, such a reduction is not considered permanent.

5. Capital Expenditure

Overall our capital expenditure programme is presently some \$21,000 overspent. The pollution response vehicle (\$19,000) was bought slightly ahead of the September vehicle purchasing round. That vehicle had been budgeted as a September expenditure item.