



**Report**                **04.12**  
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**Committee**        **Environment**  
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## **Pollution Control Report for the period 1 November 2003 to 23 January 2004**

### **1. Purpose**

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team during the reporting period.

### **2. Background**

The Resource Investigations Department provides proactive and responsive services to combat environmental pollution in the Western Wellington Region. These pollution control initiatives are summarised below:

- 24-hour Incident Response, which deals with pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with the regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme, aimed at improving the environmental performance of small to medium sized industry.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, or targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.
- Selected Land Use Register, a database of sites in the Region where hazardous activities/industries are known or suspected to have been present, and may have resulted in site contamination. This database is maintained in accordance with proposed guidelines issued by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

### **3. Strategic context**

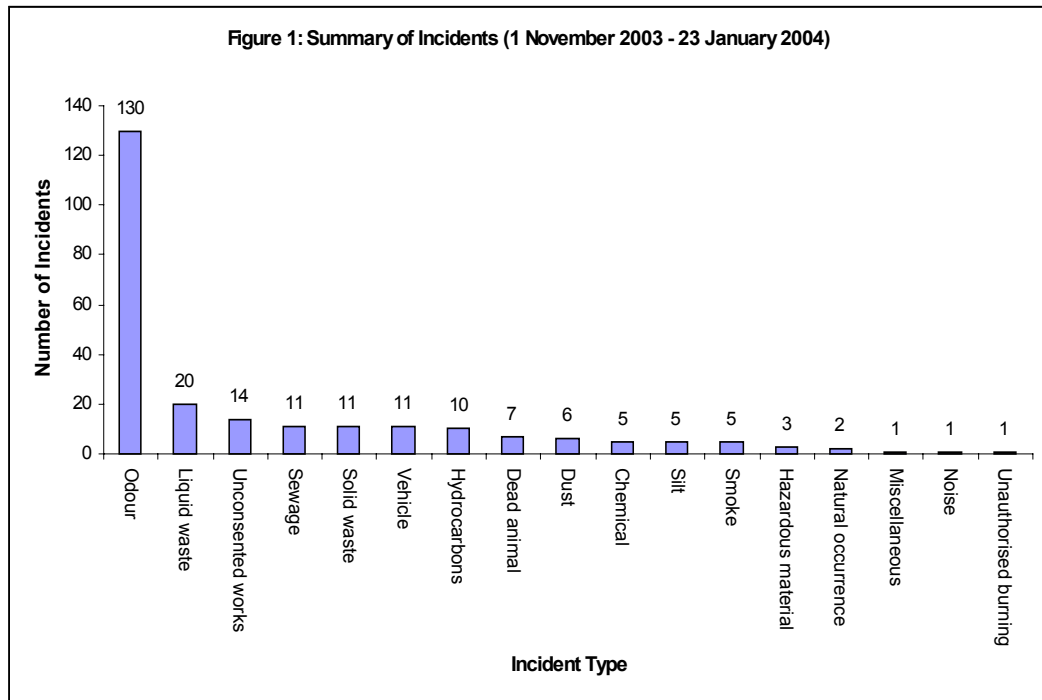
Greater Wellington's Pollution Control activities give effect to the following Take 10 targets:

By 2013:

- reported incidents will be reduced by half of 2003 levels;
- 80% of businesses surveyed have waste reduction initiatives in place;
- the water quality of our five most polluted streams improves;
- there will be no significant deterioration of water quality in our key rivers and streams;
- there will be no overall deterioration in the health of our soils.

#### 4. Incidents

A total of 243 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1<sup>1</sup>. Further information about these incidents can be found in Attachment 1.



The majority of incidents were associated with odour. Most of the incidents relating to odour were attributed to a meat-works in Ngauranga Gorge, the Carey's Gully complex in Happy Valley, a fish rendering plant in Seaview and odour from miscellaneous panel-beating and foundry workshops.

Discharges of liquid waste were associated predominantly with overflows from the sewerage network and stormwater contamination. The illegal dumping of non-cleanfill materials also continues to be a problem.

<sup>1</sup> Note that these figures incorporate incidents from consented activities that are in breach of their resource consents.

The reported figures now incorporate incidents from consented activities that are in breach of their resource consents.

The most significant incidents that occurred during this period were the following:

- The illegal dumping of non-cleanfill materials at a property in Porirua. Pollution Control Officers supervised the subsequent clean-up.
- There are continuing occurrences of silt discharging into local streams from bulk earthworks at residential development in Camborne and Happy Valley. GW is working with TA's to ensure mitigation measures are effectively employed.
- A significant hydrocarbon spill into the coastal marine area occurred at a bulk storage facility in Eastbourne. Investigating officers collected evidential samples and investigations are continuing.
- A fire occurred at a hazardous waste treatment facility in Seaview. However, there was no discharge of hazardous material beyond the site boundary.

#### 4.1 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and reaching the source of the complaint (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that the officers from both Consents Management and the Pollution Control Team largely achieved target response times during this reporting period.

**Table 1: Response time summary**

Target response tie	Average response time	Conformance Level
Red (60 minutes)	48.2 minutes	88 %
Yellow (24 hours)	3.8 hours	81 %
Blue (30 days)	2.2 days	100 %

## 5. Take Charge

*Take Charge* assessments of service stations in the western Region are now mostly complete. Arrangements are currently being made to assess service stations in the Wairarapa between 19 and 22 April 2004.

In the western Region *Take Charge* is now being applied to motor mechanic activities, with 35% of targeted sites visited. Visits are revealing a general lack of RMA understanding, and poor knowledge of site history and stormwater protection requirements.

## 6. Special projects

The Pollution Control Team is undertaking an assessment of industrial pollution sources in the Waiwhetu Stream catchment, on behalf of the Waiwhetu Stream Working Group. The objective is to evaluate whether they present an on-going pollution risk to the Waiwhetu if it were to be re-aligned. This assessment involves visiting a total of 93 industrial sites in the catchment, with 86% of these sites visited to date.

Initial findings have revealed numerous sources of stormwater and groundwater contamination throughout the catchment, which are contributing metals, hydrocarbons, detergents and particulates to the Waiwhetu Stream. Contaminant export is principally via the stormwater drainage network, although there is also potential for contributions via contaminated groundwater movements. The findings of this assessment exercise and its consequences for the proposed re-alignment exercise will be reported in further detail to the next Environment Committee.

A further benefit arising from this exercise is the updating and validation of entries in the Selected Land Use Register, with a total of five new sites identified where hazardous industries or activities are occurring.

The Consents Management Department and Pollution Control Team have been working on protocols for proactive odour monitoring for Taylor Preston and the Careys Gully Complex. Proactive monitoring is scheduled to occur between February and May 2004.

## 7. Contaminated sites

The Pollution Control Team has been responding to requests for information from the selected land use register and responding to TA requests for information on planning/building consent issues on contaminated land.

## 8. Enforcement action

**Table 2: Summary of enforcement action**

Advisory Notices	4
Infringement Notices	0
Abatement Notices	1
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions	0
Confirmed breach of resource consent*	3

\*Referred to Consents Management Department

A further abatement notice issued to a landowner to ensure the proposed remedial earthworks results in the reinstatement of the Owhiro Stream.

Advisory notices are continuing to be a useful tool for getting compliance with our regional rules.

## **9. Communication**

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

## **10. Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

- 1. receive this report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1:** Incident Response Summary